

4

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



AKIRA

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



**BOOK
FOUR**



DARK HORSE COMICS®

translation and english-language adaptation
**YOKO UMEZAWA, JO DUFFY,
and DARK HORSE COMICS**

graphics adaptation and sound effects lettering
**DAVID SCHMIT for DIGIBOX
and ÉDITIONS GLENAT**

digital lettering and additional graphics adaptation
**DIGITAL CHAMELEON
and DARK HORSE COMICS**

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

original series editor
KOICHI YURI

editor
CHRIS WARNER

consulting editor
TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS

collection designer
LIA RIBACCHI

art director
MARK COX



AKIRA BOOK FOUR

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The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror-image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

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THE STORY SO FAR

Thirty-eight years after a cataclysmic explosion levels Tokyo and triggers World War III, Neo-Tokyo prepares for the first postwar Olympic games, a stadium being erected on the original blast site. While making an illegal run into the area, a motorcycle gang led by Kaneda encounters an aged and ailing child with fantastic bioelectric power and the number 26 tattooed on his palm. Kaneda's friend Tetsuo is injured and the child vanishes. The military arrives and takes Tetsuo for medical attention. Later, Kaneda meets the beautiful Kei, part of an underground group opposed to Neo-Tokyo's new order. A second meeting with 26 escalates into mayhem as a team led by the mysterious Colonel arrives to capture the child, named Takashi, by utilizing another child, psychic Masaru. Amidst the ensuing psychic storm, Kei and her associate Ryu fight their way to safety and Kaneda manages to escape, taking a capsule dropped by Takashi. A friend of Kaneda's fails to identify the drug, but it is clearly lethal.

When tests reveal Tetsuo's immense psychic potential, the Colonel takes him to a special facility where yet another child, paranormal Kyoko, foretells the awakening of Akira, a boy whose godlike psychic abilities destroyed Tokyo. Number 28 of a secret experiment gone wrong, Akira sleeps in frozen stasis in a complex deep beneath the Olympic site.

Growing paranoid and unstable, Tetsuo's dormant powers suddenly switch on and, steeped in growing pain, he escapes the facility, leaving a trail of death. Wandering the streets in agony, Tetsuo murders a rival gang member in a grisly psychic explosion and the terrified gang crown the superhuman madman their new leader, who unleashes them in a violent rampage against the other bika gangs. Kaneda organizes the gangs to fight back, but Tetsuo dispatches them, killing Tetsuo's friend Yamagata. Enraged, Kaneda shoots Tetsuo, who unleashes a tornado of destruction. The Colonel's forces arrive to find the wounded Tetsuo screaming for drugs to ease his pain. Kaneda attacks again, and in the struggle the mystery super-

drug drops from his pocket. Tetsuo swallows it and goes into a massive seizure, but miraculously survives, his pain quelled. The Colonel offers to supply Tetsuo with the drug and his training to fully utilize his power. Tetsuo, realizing he has few alternatives, becomes Number 41. The Colonel takes Tetsuo, Kaneda, and Kei to the laboratory facility and sequesters Kaneda and Kei.

Meanwhile, Nezu, the resistance leader, meets with Ryu, who reports of suspicious military activity at a site adjacent to the stadium. Nezu is summoned by Lady Miyako, a mystical figure who shares visions of an impending disaster that cannot be averted. Akira's awakening draws closer.

Tetsuo's power grows at an astonishing rate, evidenced by the self-healing of his deadly bullet wound. Tetsuo leaves of Akira and the other psychics, and he becomes obsessed with facing them. The children, sensing Tetsuo's potential for freeing Akira, use their abilities to free Kei and Kaneda and lead them to a secret army where they procure a laser rifle to destroy Tetsuo. Tetsuo finds and confronts the children, who are with the Colonel. Tetsuo recognizes Number 28 and torments the children, whose powers are no longer his match. Tetsuo demands to meet Akira. Kei and Kaneda crash the party and attack Tetsuo with the laser, teleporting from beneath collapsing rubble. Tetsuo falls from the skyscraper facility and plunges to the ground below, but is completely unharmed.

One of the Colonel's agents secretly helps Kaneda and Kei to freedom, but the Colonel soon forgets about them when he discovers that Nezu has discovered Akira's location. Kei leads Kaneda and their benefactor into the sewers, the hidden back door into the secret underground complex. Tetsuo arrives at the facility, but guards and guns are no match for the murderous psychic juggernaut, and Tetsuo breaches the defense perimeter. He boards an elevator and begins the long descent to Akira's sleep chamber. The Colonel arrives in force, and his troops attack Tetsuo, who repels the assault with ease. Scientists discover to their horror that the temperature within Akira's chamber is rising. Akira is responding to Tetsuo's psychic vibrations!

The chamber cracks and releases deadly subzero refrigerant, forcing Kei, Kaneda, and the surviving troops to flee the facility. Tetsuo, unharmed by the lethal cold, reaches the chamber. The cell bursts open, and Akira emerges, dozed after his decades-long sleep. Tetsuo helps the child to the outside world. A city-wide alert goes into effect as the frantic Colonel employs a last-ditch plan to stop the two by using the laser cannon of the military satellite SOL to gun down Tetsuo and Akira. The weapon opens fire and the terrible blast finds Tetsuo's arm, tearing it to shreds. Kei and Kaneda find Akira and disappear into the city and find sanctuary in the home of Chiyoko, a powerful woman allied with the resistance.

Martial law goes into effect, and panic rules the streets. Everyone wants to find Akira, and for many reasons: to capture him, to destroy him, to use his terrible powers for personal gain. Chiyoko takes Kei, Kaneda, and Akira to Nezu's boat, a temporary safehouse. But Nezu betrays them and Lady Miyako by taking Akira and ordering his men to murder Chiyoko, Kaneda, and Kei. Only Chiyoko's strength and fighting skills — and a little well-placed vomit by the seashore Kaneda — keep the three alive. Knowing that Akira will be taken to Nezu's home, the three go on the offensive and capture Akira.

But the streets are now crawling with forces trying to find the young superhuman, both sides utilizing child psychics to track Akira down. After harrowing battles and narrow escapes, the Colonel along with Masaru, Kyoko, and Takashi at last corner Akira. Takashi greets his old friend, but the escaped Nezu, hiding in a nearby building, tries to shoot Akira rather than have him fall into the Colonel's hands. Nezu misses, his errant bullet finding the head of Takashi, who is killed instantly. His death triggers Akira's boundless power, and in an instant, a massive psychic wave surges through Neo-Tokyo, the destruction that obliterated his nameless now revisited upon the glittering metropolis. The citizenry, Kei, Kaneda, and the Colonel among them, struggle desperately to survive the holocaust. As the maelstrom subsides, Akira sits alone at the nexus of the disaster. A lone figure approaches him through the vast field of wreckage. It is Tetsuo, and the two rise together into the air...



KANEDA



TETSUO



KEI



RYU



TAKASHI



THE COLONEL



MASARU



KYOKO



NEZU



LADY MIYAKO



CHIYOKO



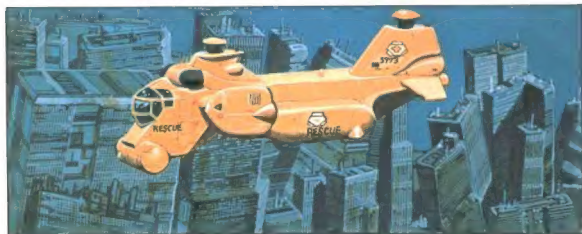
AKIRA

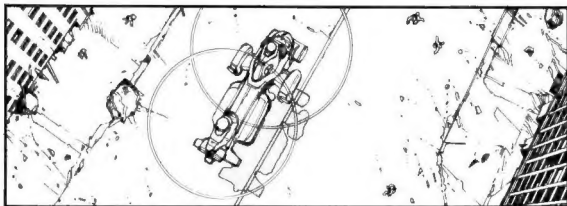
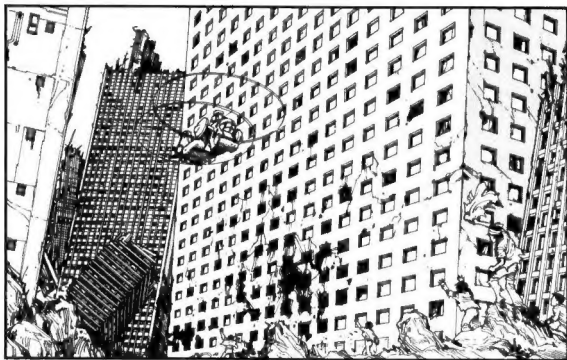


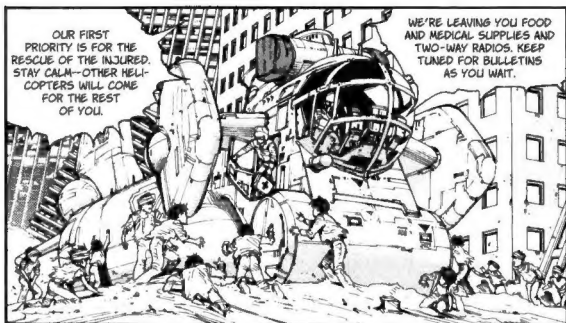
An aerial, monochromatic blue-toned image of a city, likely Tokyo, completely submerged in water. The dense urban landscape, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings, is visible as islands and peninsulas rising from the vast expanse of water. The title 'AKIRA' is prominently displayed in large, bold, white capital letters in the upper left quadrant. Below it, in smaller, bold, black capital letters, is the text 'BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO'.

AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO







OUR FIRST
PRIORITY IS FOR THE
RESCUE OF THE INJURED.
STAY CALM--OTHER HELI-
COPTERS WILL COME
FOR THE REST
OF YOU.

WE'RE LEAVING YOU FOOD
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND
TWO-WAY RADIOS. KEEP
TUNED FOR BULLETINS
AS YOU WAIT.



KEEP BACK!
WE'VE ALREADY
SAID WE CAN
ONLY ACCOM-
MODATE THE
WOUNDED!

DON'T
YOU UN-
DERSTAND
?!



THEY WON'T
LISTEN! TELL
THE PILOT TO
TAKE OFF!



FREEZE!

TCHIK



IN THE NAME
OF THE EMPIRE,
I HEREBY RE-
QUISITION THIS
VEHICLE! GIVE
IT UP, AND
NO FUNNY
BUSINESS!

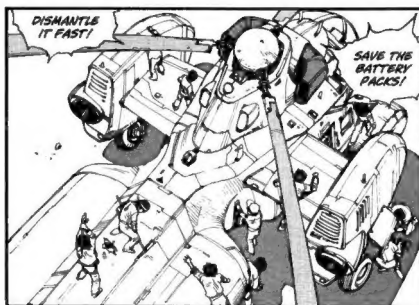


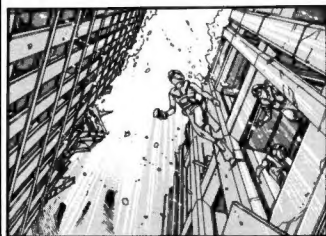
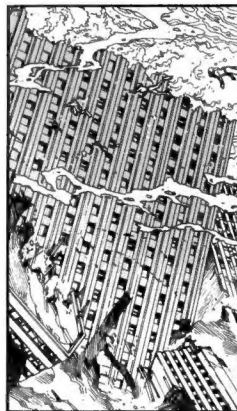
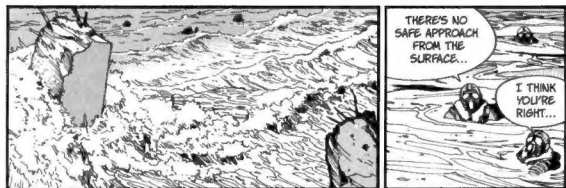
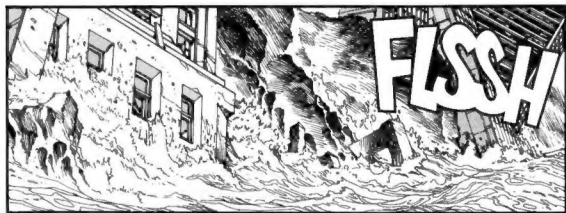
WHO ARE
YOU GUYS?!

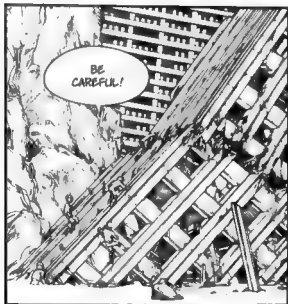
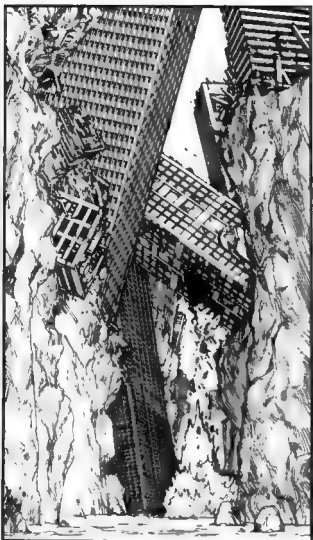
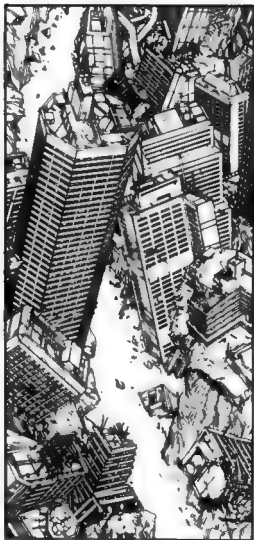


"REQUISITION"
...?

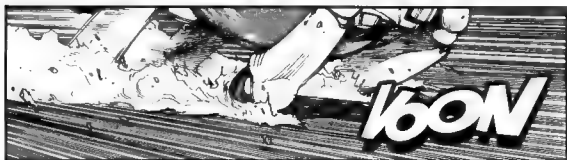
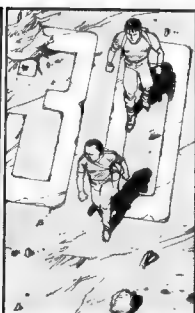
"EMPIRE"...?

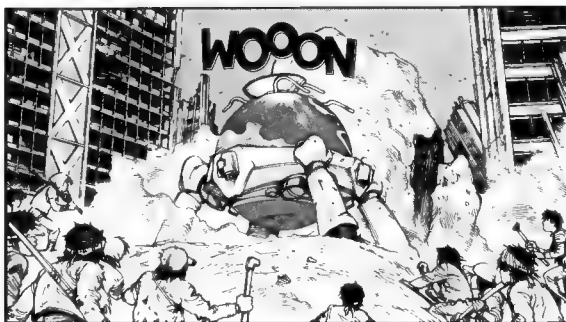


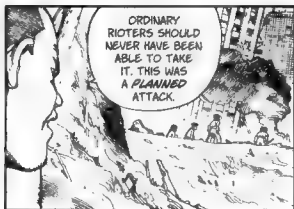




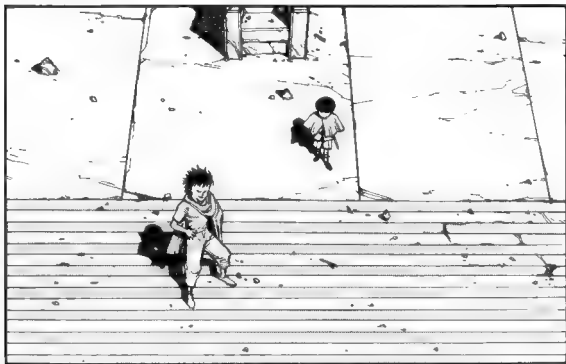


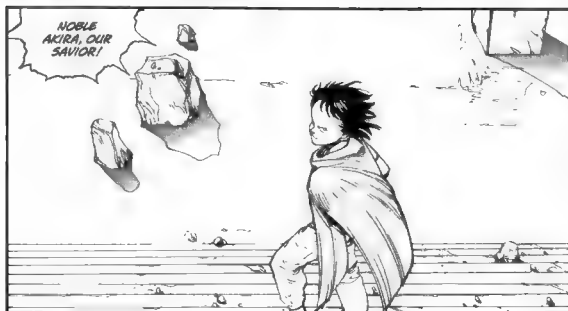
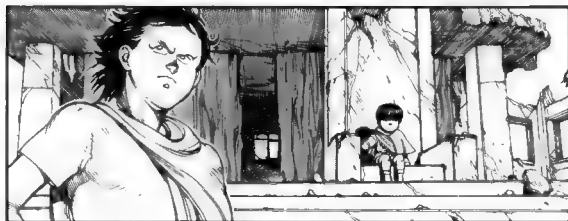
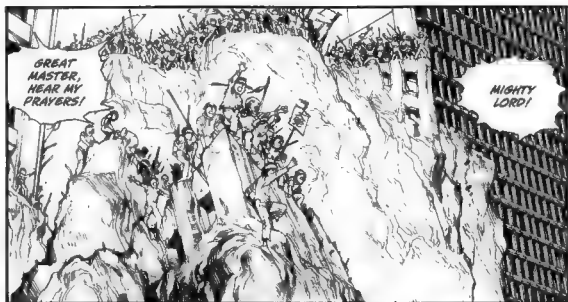




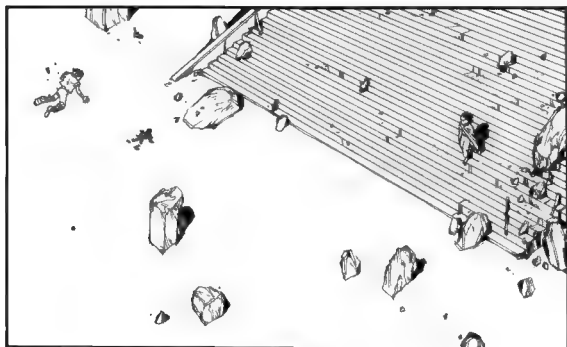


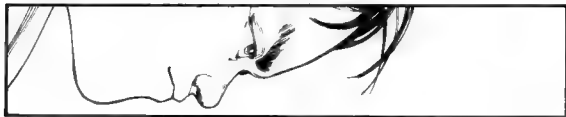
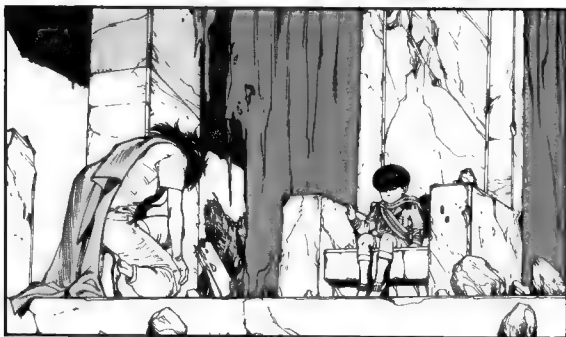
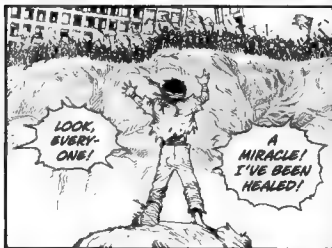


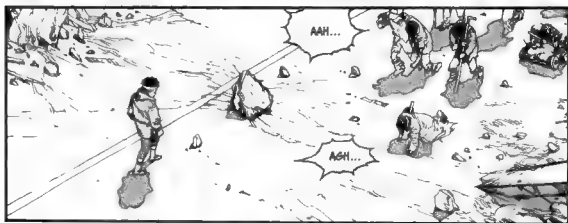


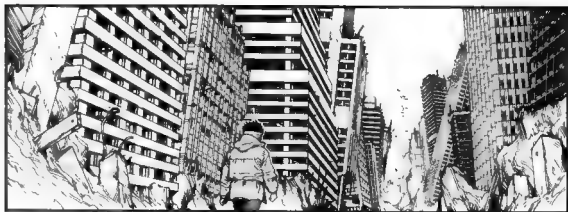






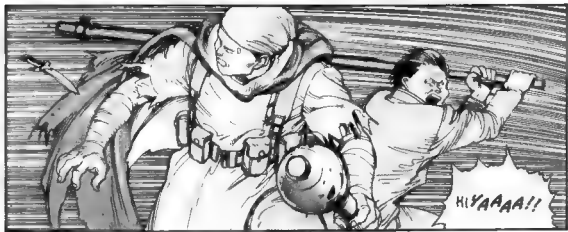






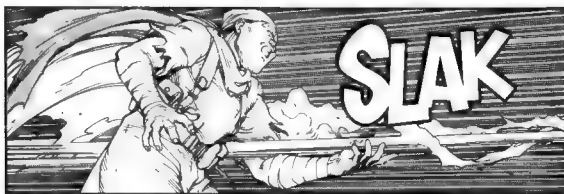
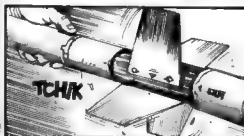


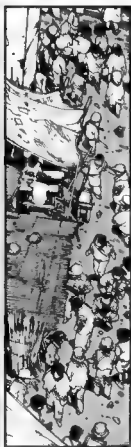
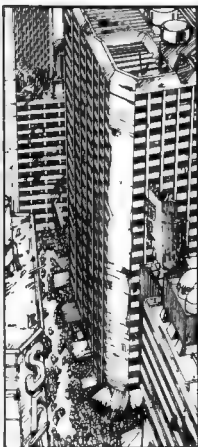


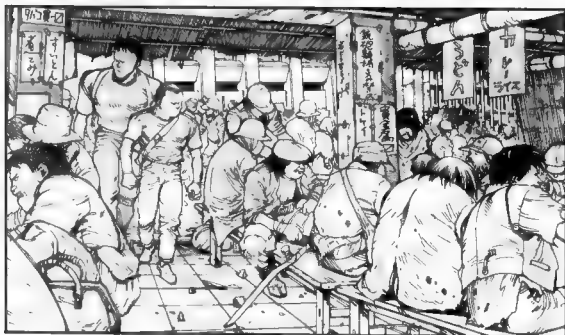






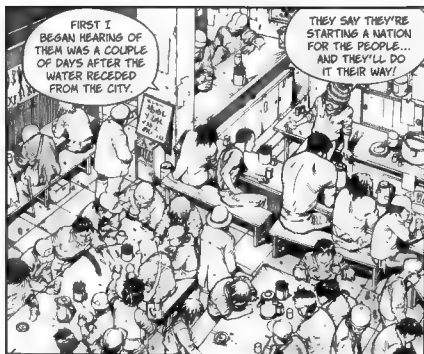


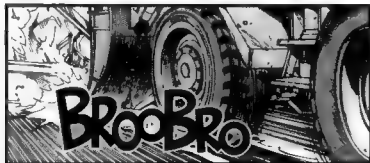
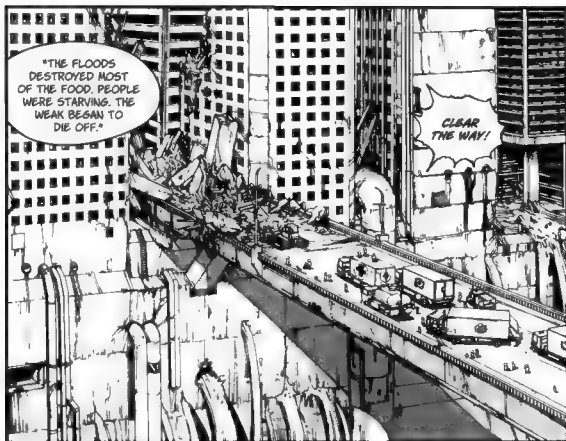


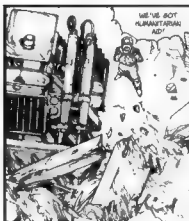




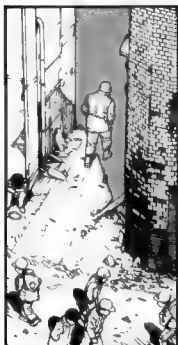




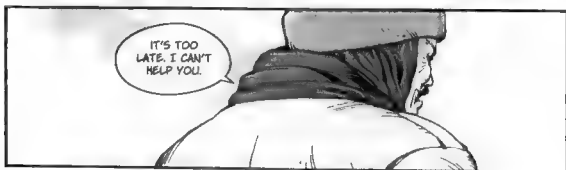


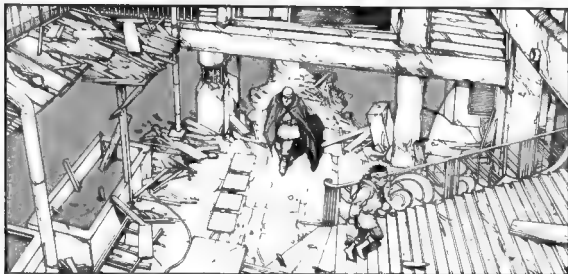
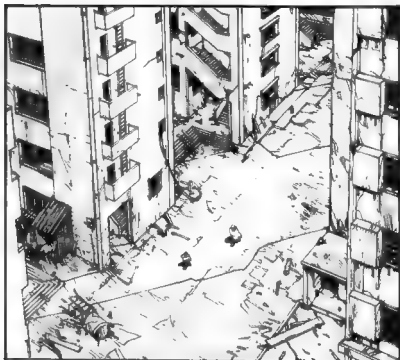


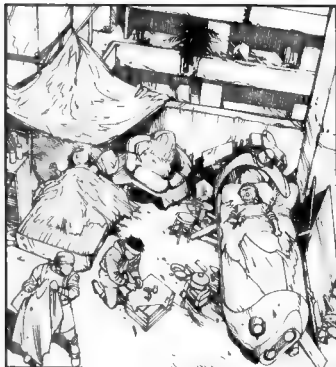
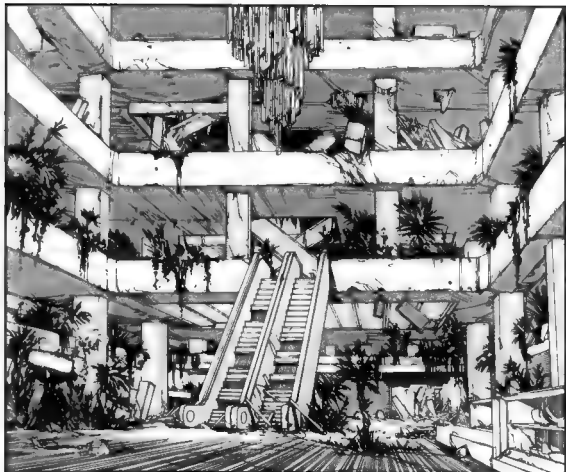






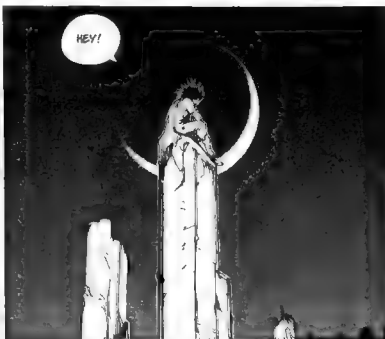
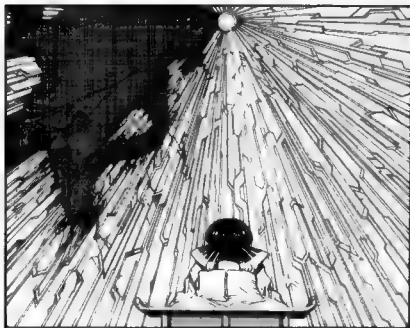




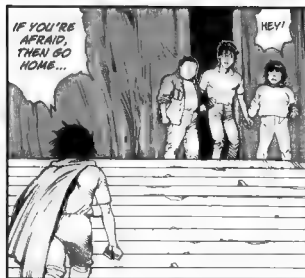
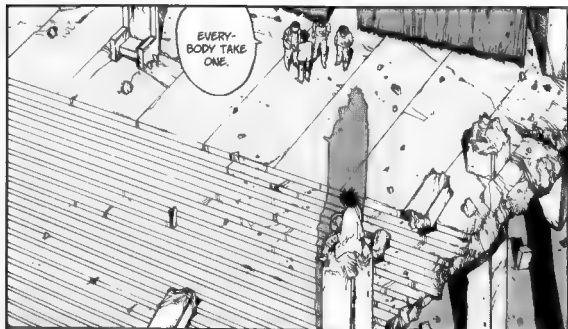




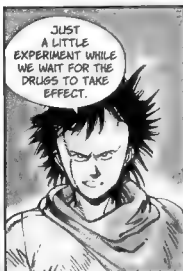
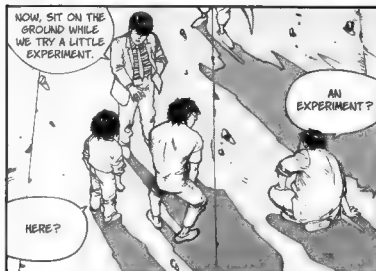


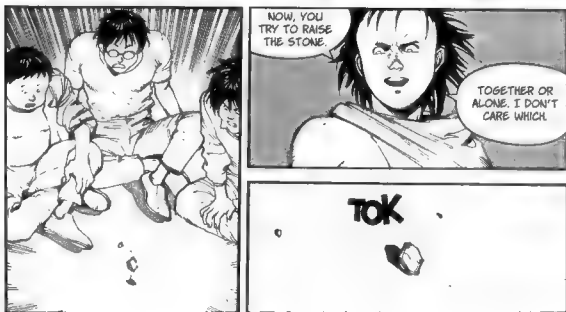
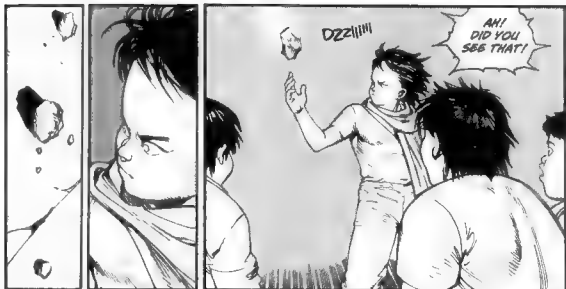


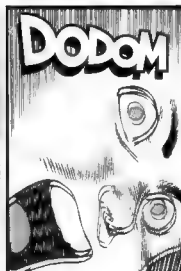
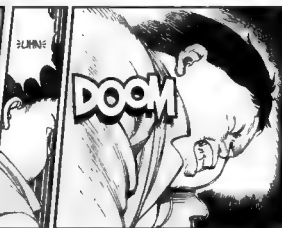




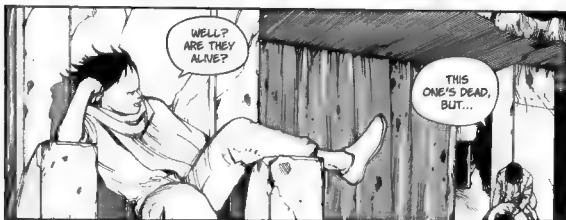


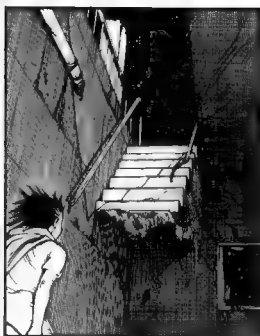
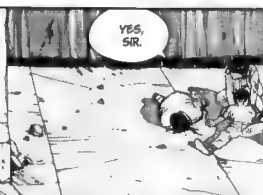


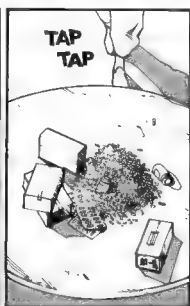
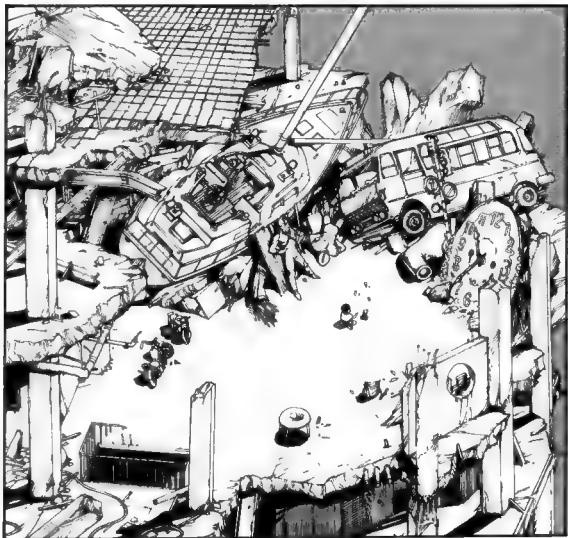




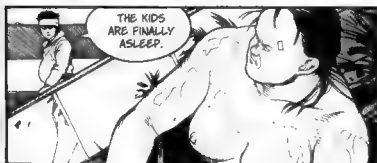
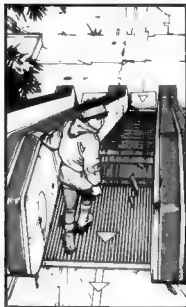










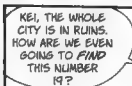




DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THIS "NUMBER 19"?



NO. ALL THAT SHE SAID WAS THAT I SHOULD ASK NUMBER 19 FOR HELP.



KEI, THE WHOLE CITY IS IN RUINS. HOW ARE WE EVEN GOING TO FIND THIS NUMBER 19?



WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS... A THING, A PERSON, DEAD, ALIVE...



I KNOW WHERE TO GO...



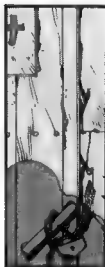
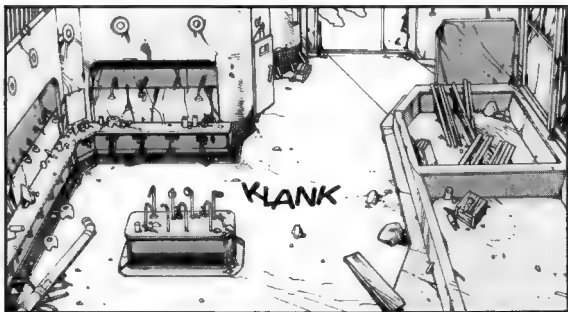
ARE YOU CRAZY? THAT'S IN LADY MIYAKO'S TERRITORY! ARE YOU SURE...?



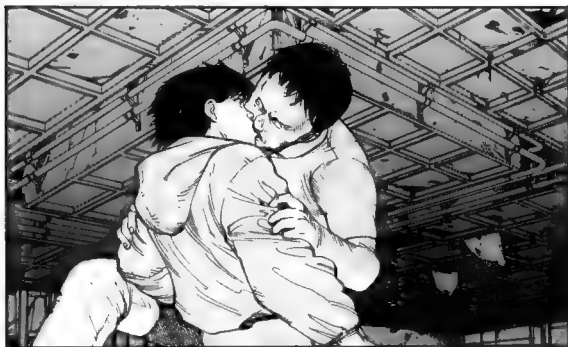
YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKE. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND NUMBER 19...



SO LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME!







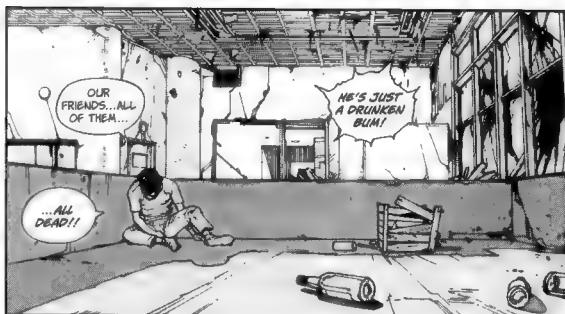


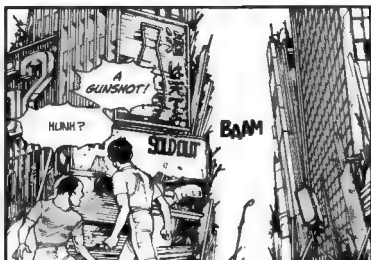
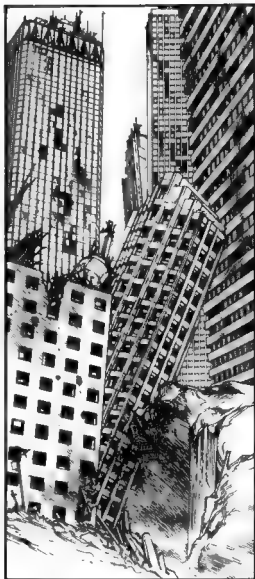
WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE A
COLD SHOWER
AND COOL
OFF!

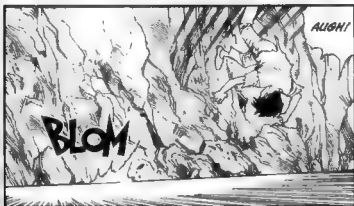


COME WITH
ME. WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO SCREW
AROUND.





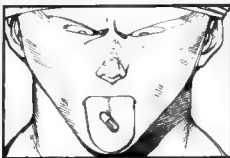
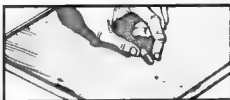


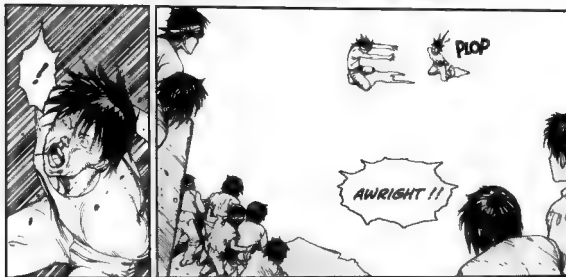
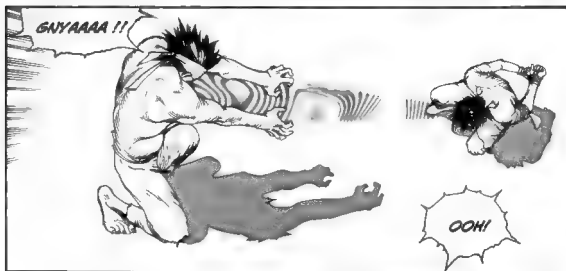


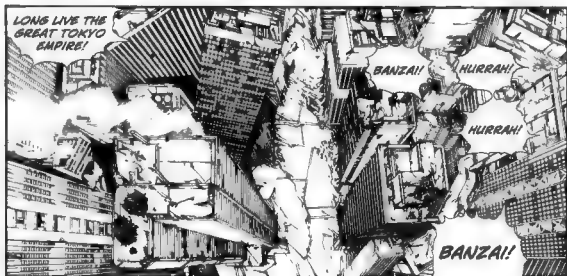


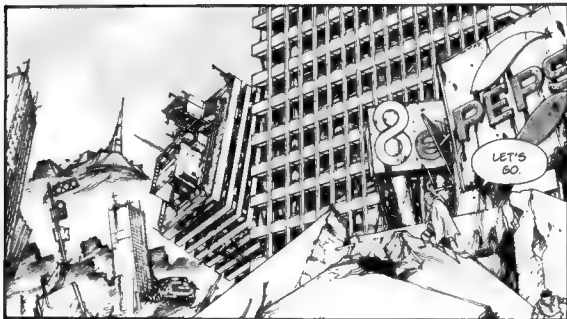
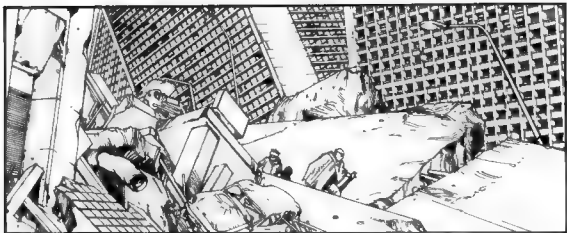




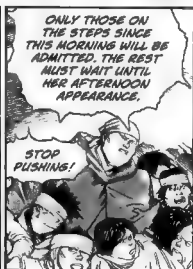
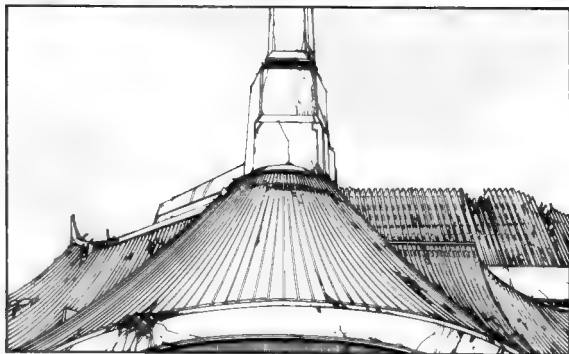


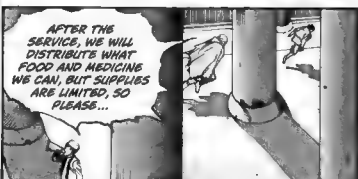














THAT GUY
THEY KILLED
WAS NO ROOKIE.
I NEVER FIGURED
SOME KID WOULD
FINISH HIM.

DID
YOU?



YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT,
RIGHT?

DID YOU
NOTICE WHAT
HAPPENED BEFORE
THAT GUY STARTED
TO SHOUT?

NO...
WHAT?



THAT BIG, UGLY
APE WAS TAKING
SOMETHING.

OH, YEAH!
I SAW THEM
BRING HIM A
CAPSULE ON
A TRAY...



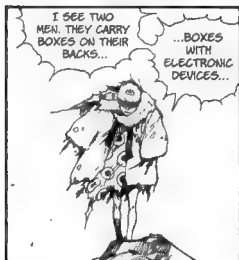
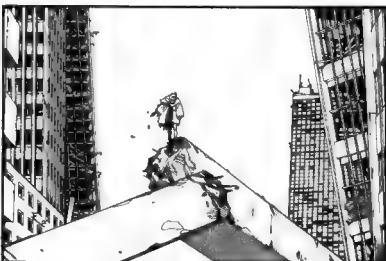
YOU THINK
IT WAS ALL
A TRICK?

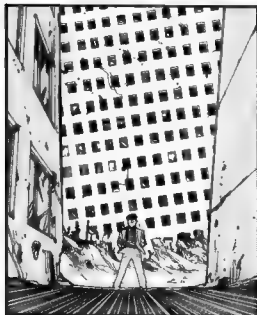
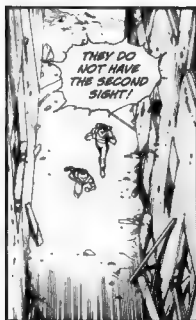
HARD TO SAY...
ONE THING'S FOR
CERTAIN--WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO UNDER-
ESTIMATE...

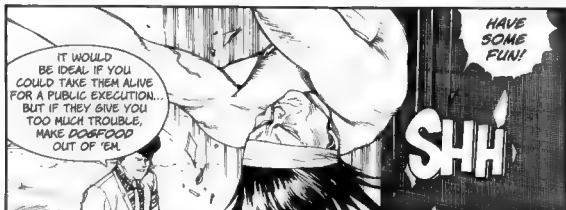


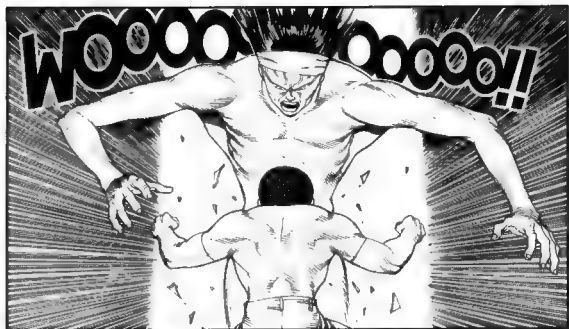
THERE'S
NOTHING NORMAL
ABOUT THIS
PLACE.

KEEP
THAT IN YOUR
HEAD.

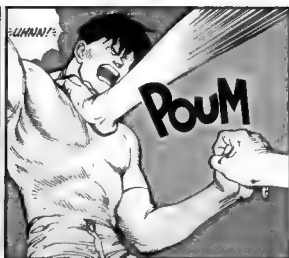






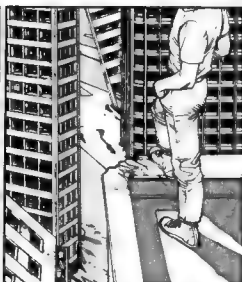


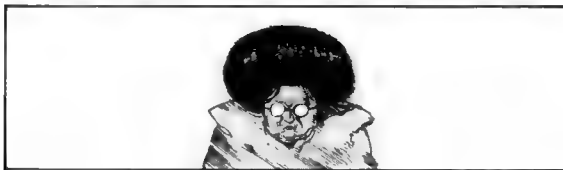
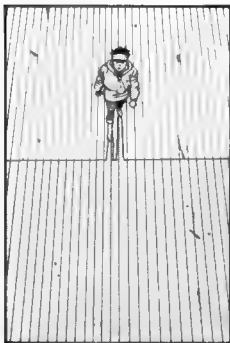


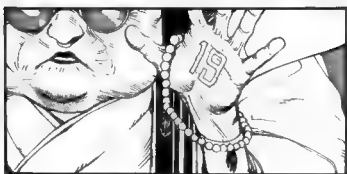
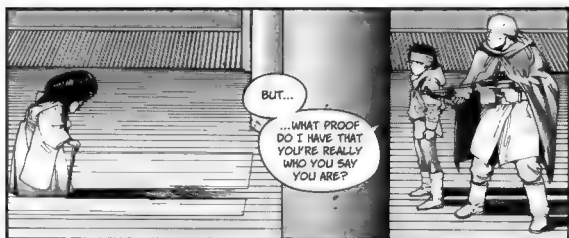




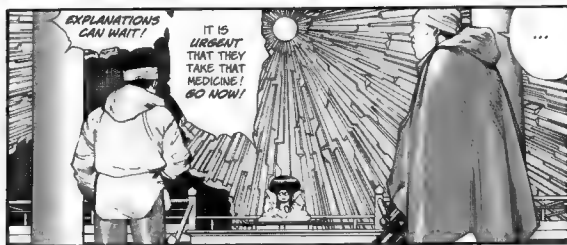


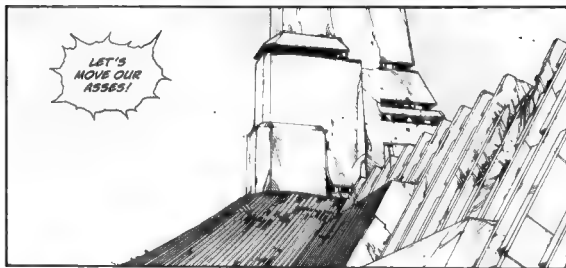


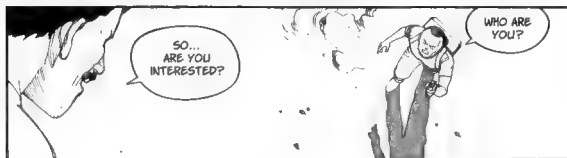
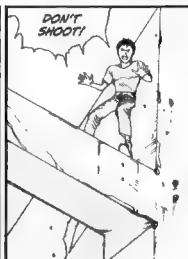






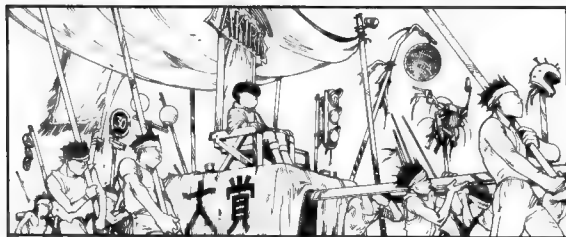


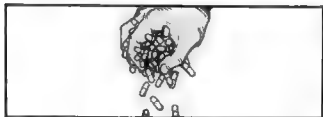


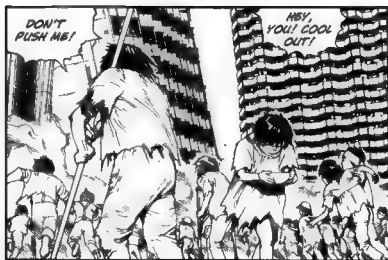


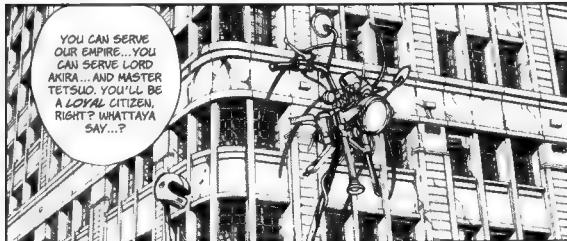
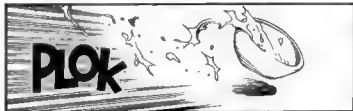


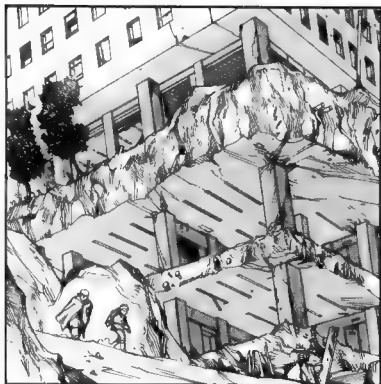


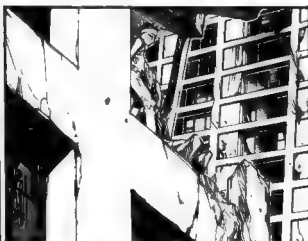








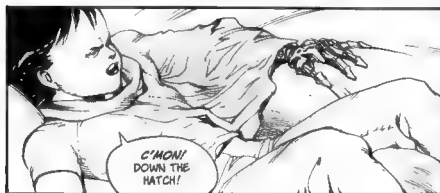
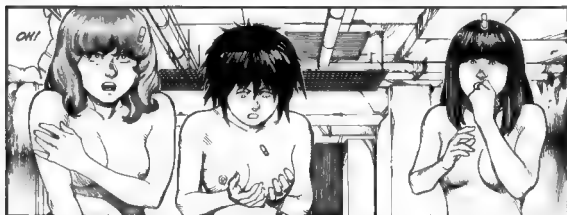






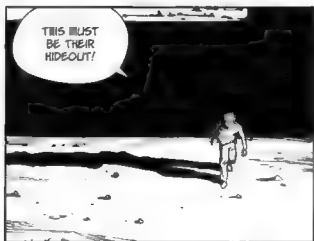




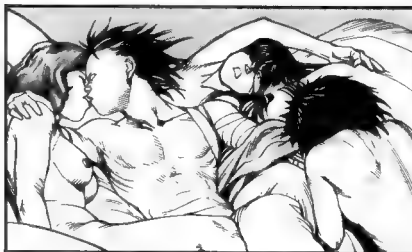
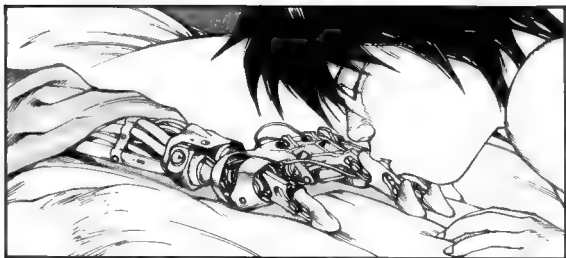


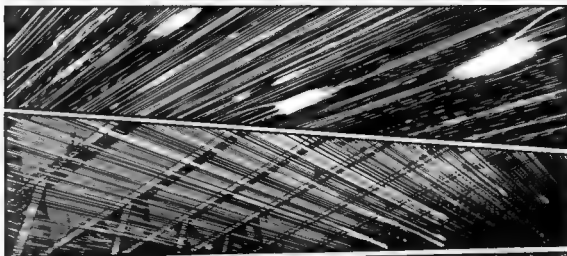


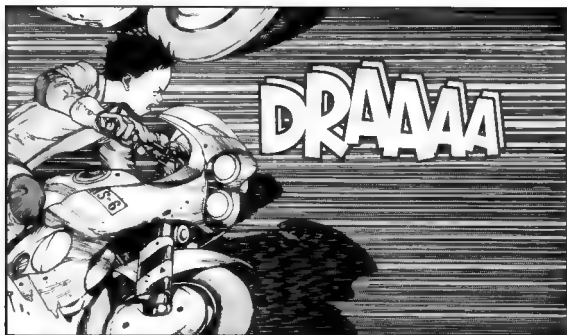
AH!

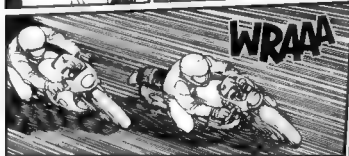


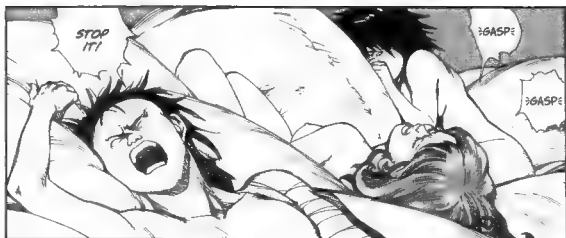
THIS MUST
BE THEIR
HIDEOUT!

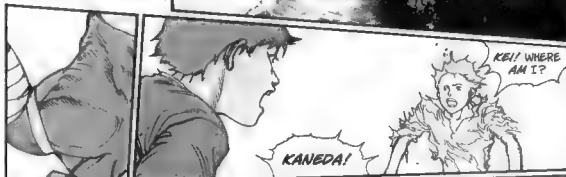
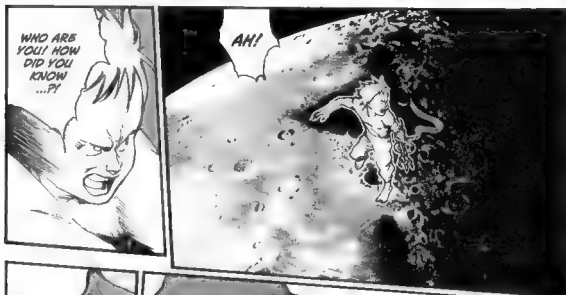
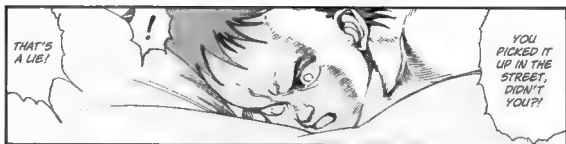


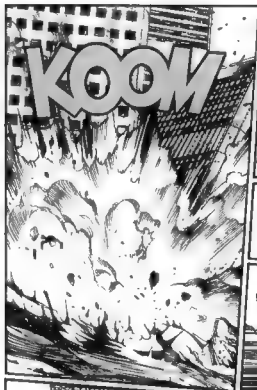












LONG LIVE THE
GREAT TOKYO
EMPIRE!



LEAVE ME
ALONE!



THAT'S
NOT TRUE! I
NEVER...



WHAT
IS THIS?
PI!

NO! IT'S
NOT REAL! IT'S
JUST A DREAM!
IT'S NOTHING,
NOTHING,
NOTHING!



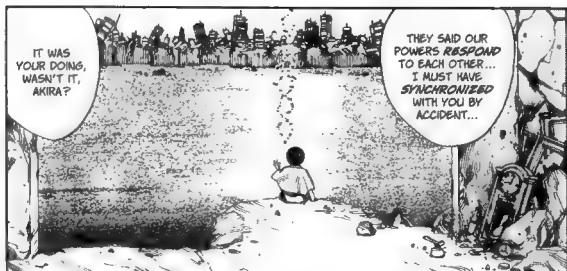
...THE
MOON...



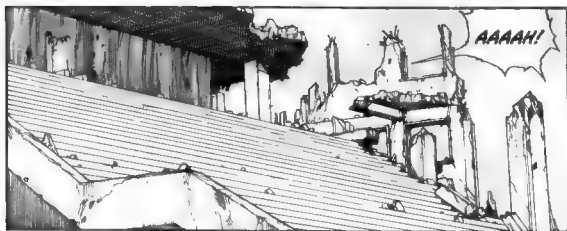
HAPPY NOW?
YOU'RE KING
OF THE GREAT
PILE OF
BULLSHIT!



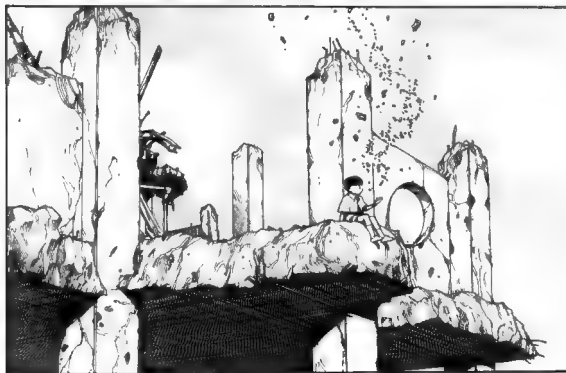
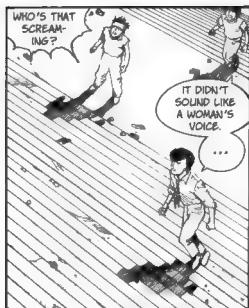


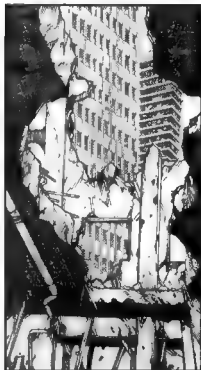


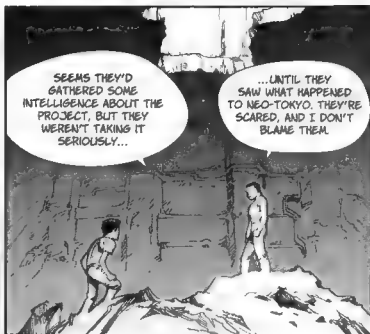


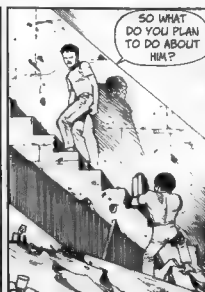




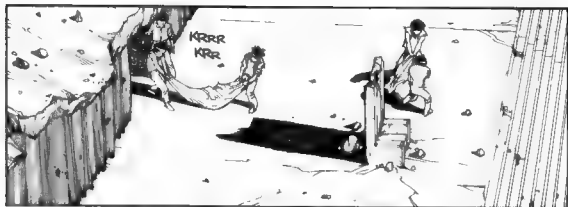


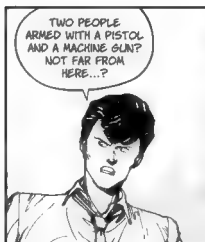






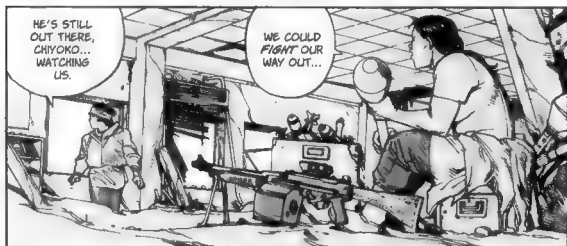
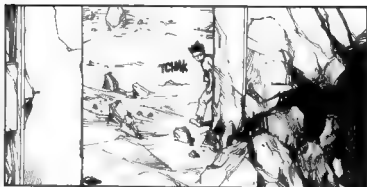
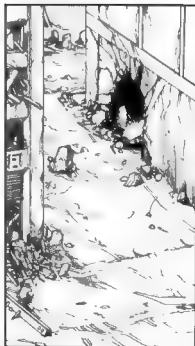








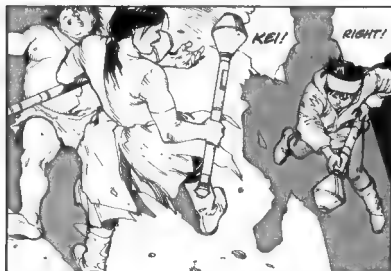
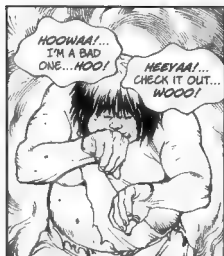


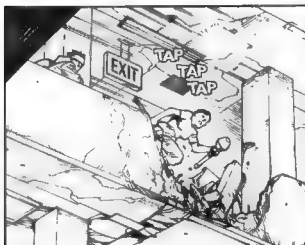
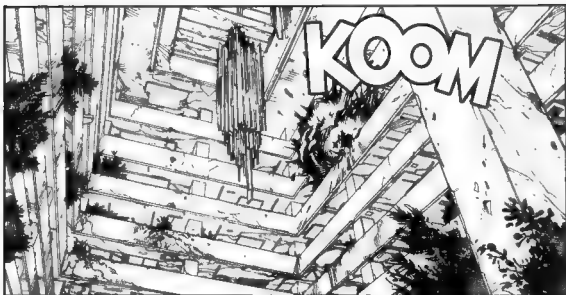


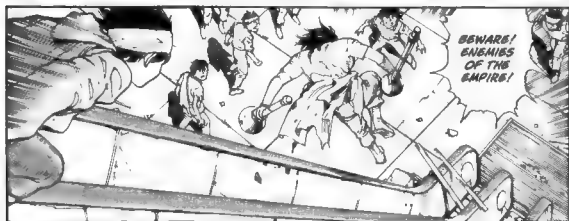
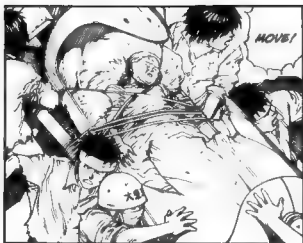


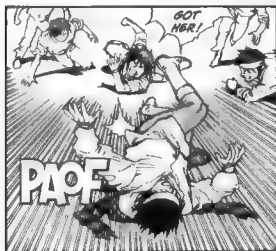




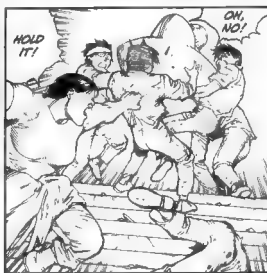
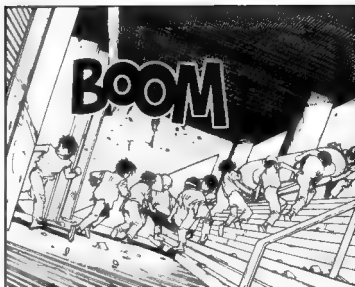




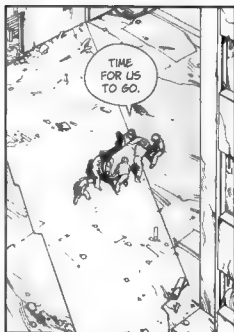






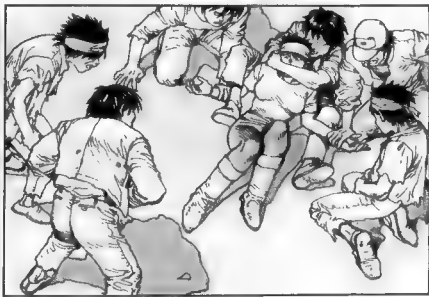
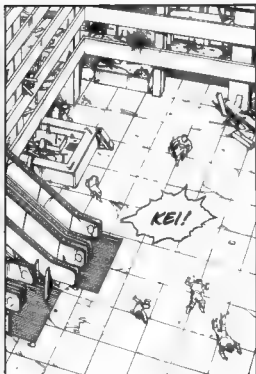


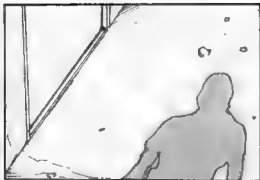
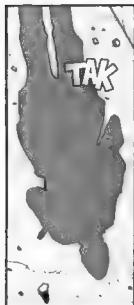








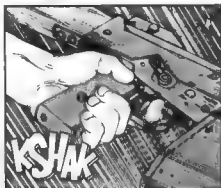


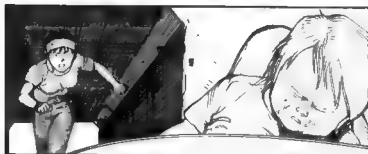


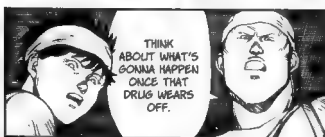


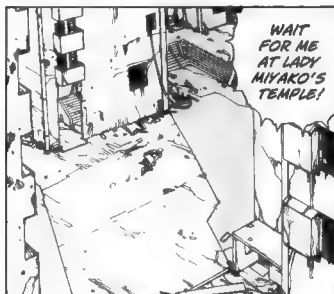


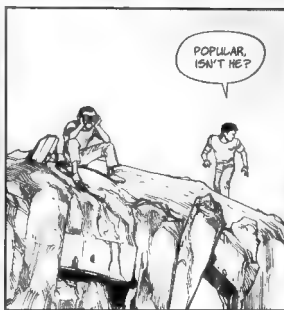
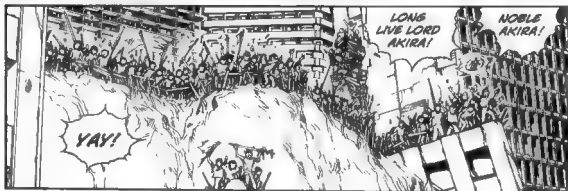
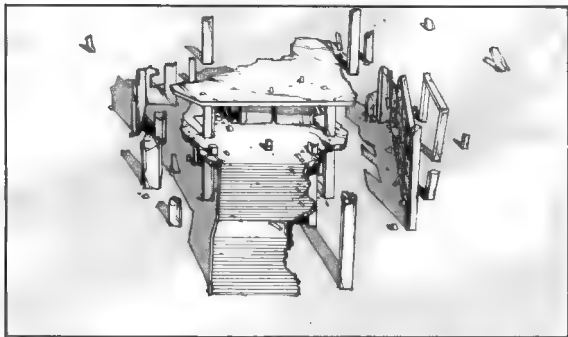




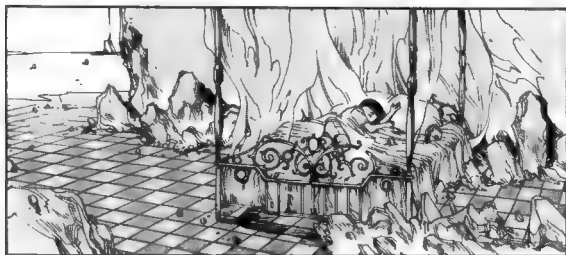














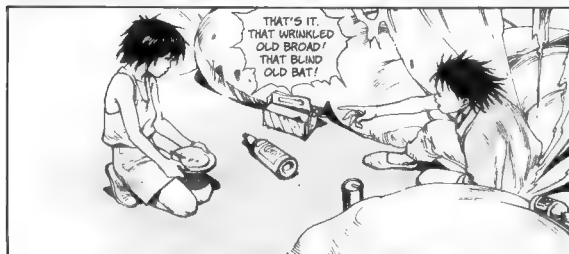


THEN...

YOU DON'T
REMEMBER?



I BROUGHT
YOU SOME
FOOD...



THAT'S IT.
THAT WRINKLED
OLD BROAD!
THAT BLIND
OLD BAT!



FOR
SOMEONE
WHO CAN'T
SEE... SHE
KNOWS A
HELL OF A
LOT...

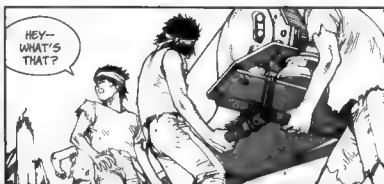
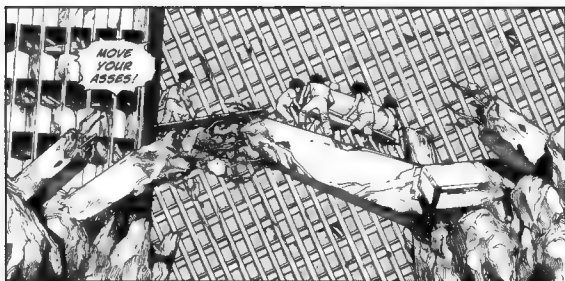


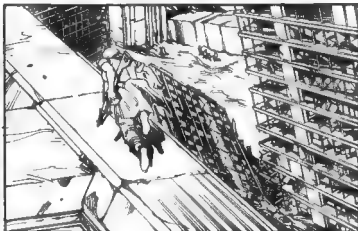
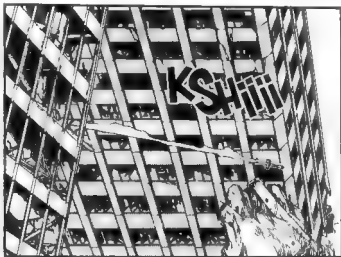
I'M SURE...YEAH,
SHE CAN EXPLAIN
IT TO ME!

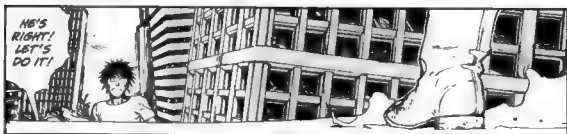
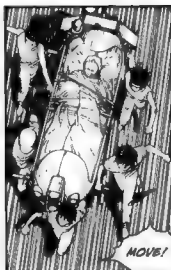


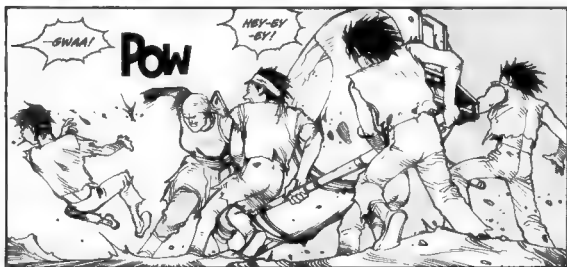
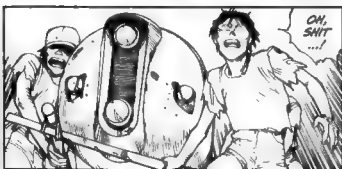
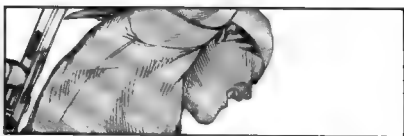
HELP
ME UP!

I HAVE TO
GO SEE
HER.

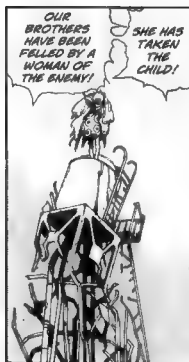


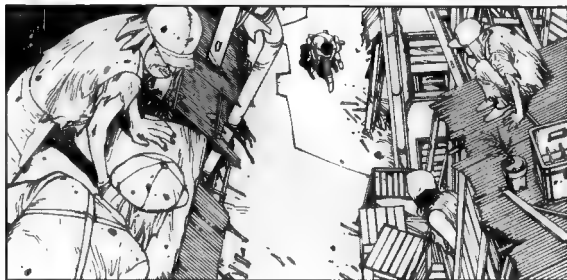
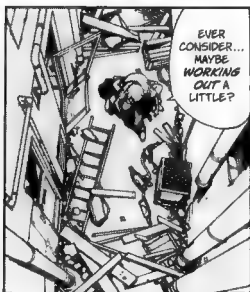
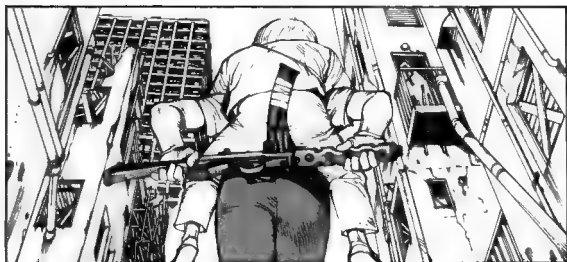


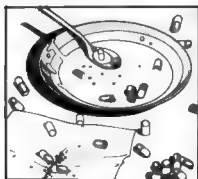


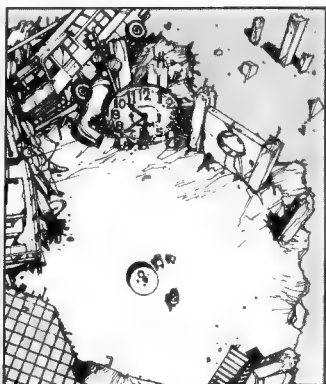
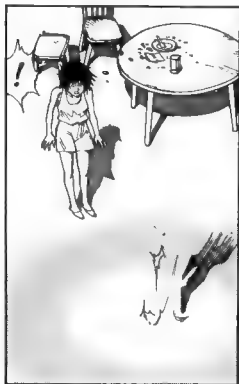




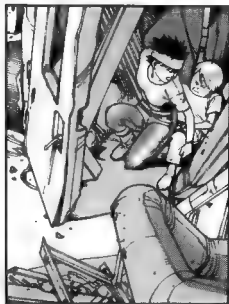




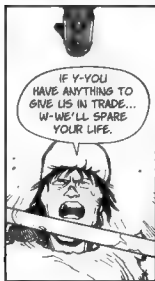






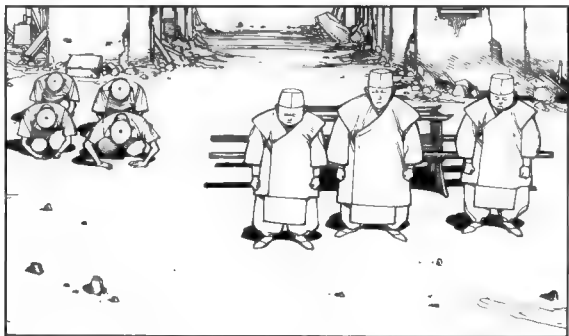


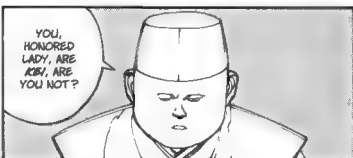


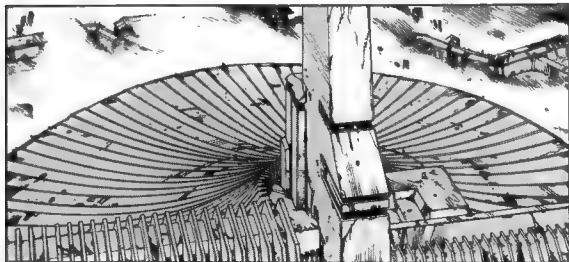
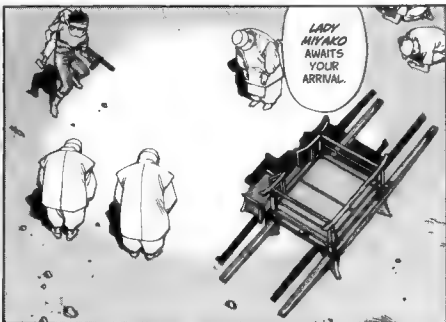




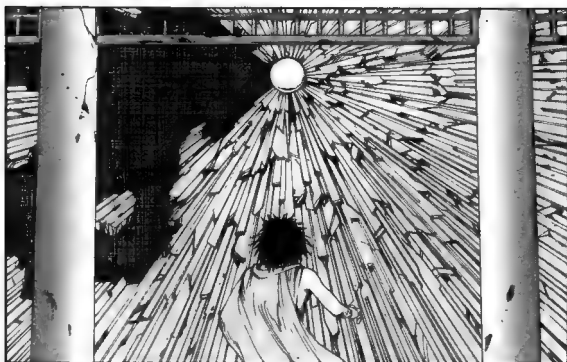














HAVE...
YOU SEEN IT
TOO?



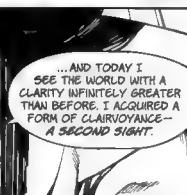
LONG, LONG
AGO... WHEN I
WAS STILL IN THE
LABORATORY...



NOW, I DO
NOT SEE SO
CLEARLY...



FOLLOWING
MANY EXPERIMENTS,
MY GROWTH WAS
STUNTED AND MY
VISION DIMMED. BUT
I SURVIVED...



...AND TODAY I
SEE THE WORLD WITH A
CLARITY INFINITELY GREATER
THAN BEFORE. I ACQUIRED A
FORM OF CLAIRVOYANCE—
A SECOND SIGHT.



I WANT
THAT POWER.
THAT'S WHY
I'M HERE.

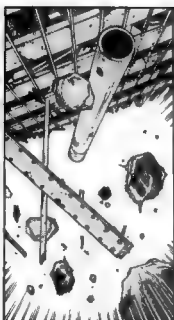


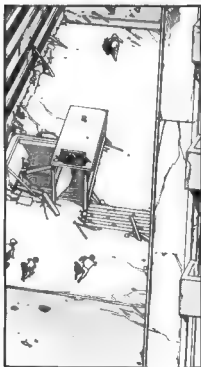
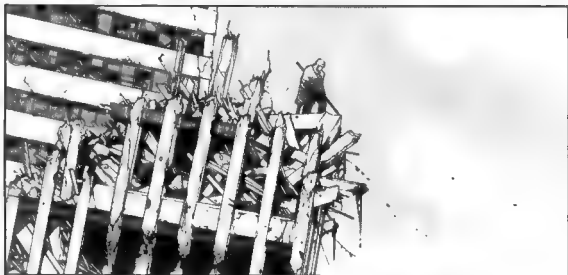
I SEE...
WHAT SUBJECT
INTERESTS
YOU?

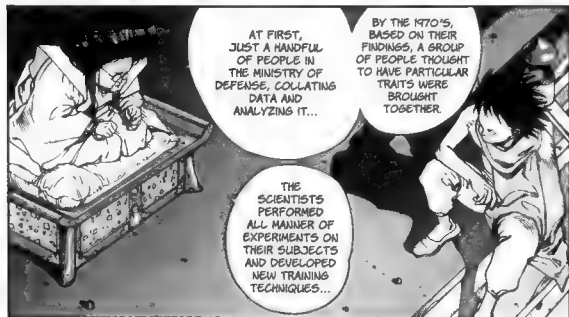


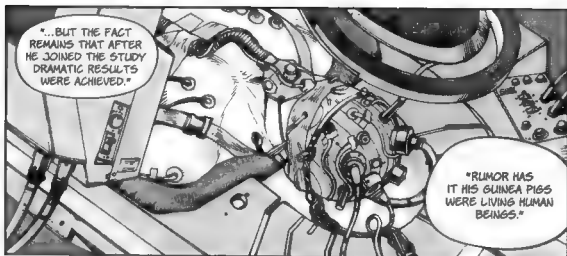
AKIRA

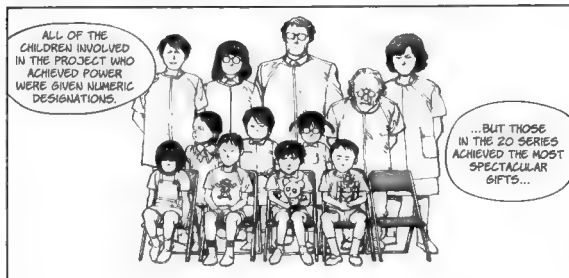
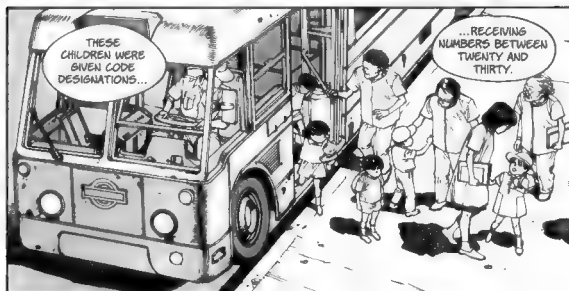
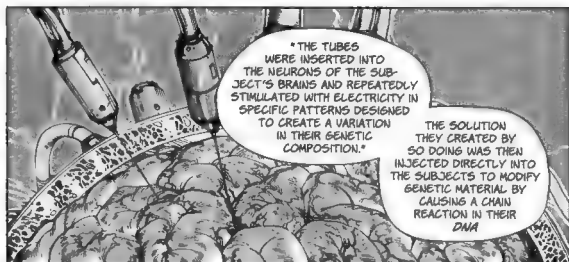


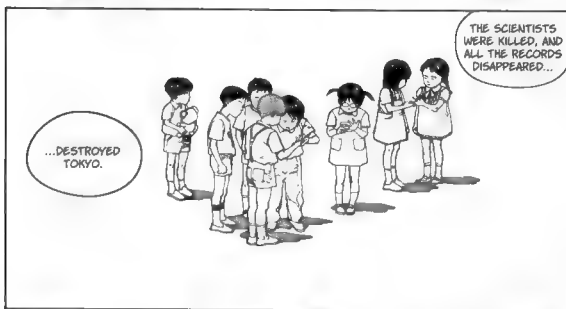


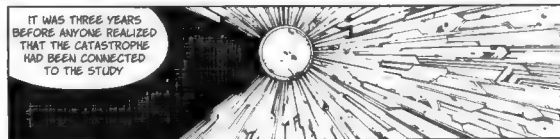
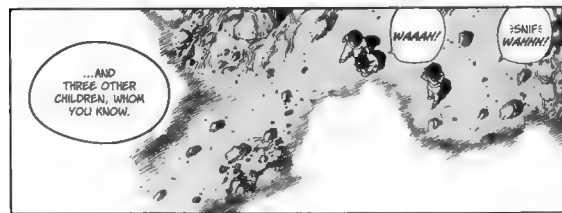
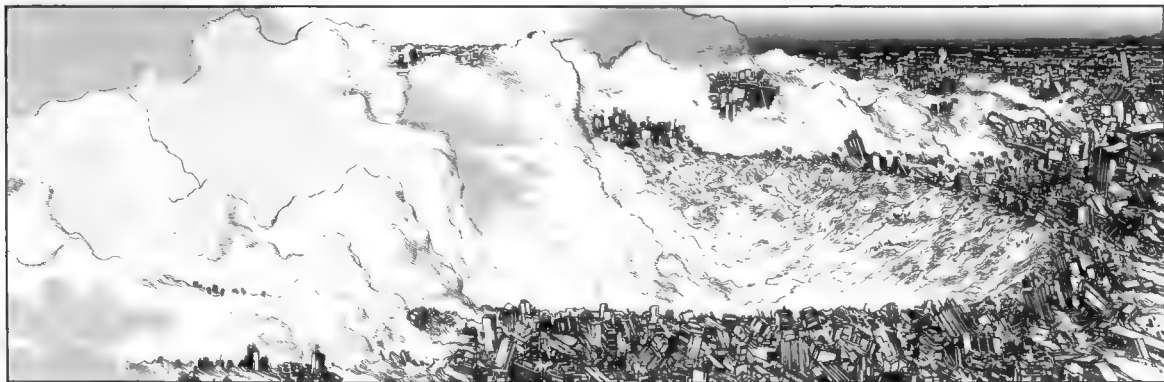














THAT'S
REAL PRETTY,
BUT...

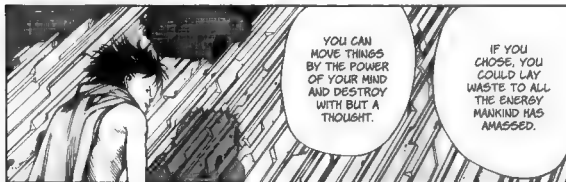
Tok



...THAT DOESN'T
EXPLAIN WHY AKIRA'S
POWERS ARE SO
IMMENSE



HOW DO
YOU EXPLAIN
YOUR OWN
POWERS?

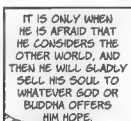


YOU CAN
MOVE THINGS
BY THE POWER
OF YOUR MIND
AND DESTROY
WITH BUT A
THOUGHT.

IF YOU
CHOSE, YOU
COULD LAY
WASTE TO ALL
THE ENERGY
MANKIND HAS
AMASSED.



COMPARED
TO THE POWER
WITHIN YOU, THE TOTAL
ENERGY OF THE WORLD
IS NOTHING MORE THAN
A GENTLE BREEZE.



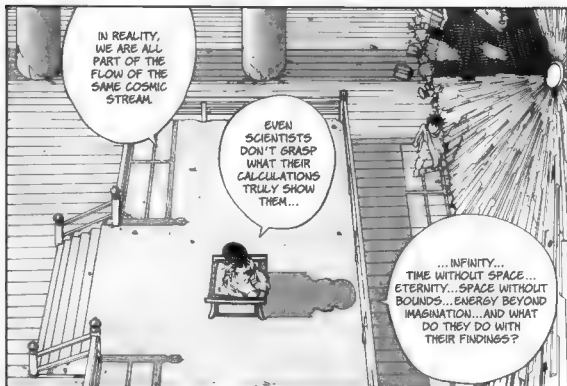
IT IS ONLY WHEN
HE IS AFRAID THAT
HE CONSIDERS THE
OTHER WORLD, AND
THEN HE WILL GLADLY
SELL HIS SOUL TO
WHATEVER GOD OR
BUDDHA OFFERS
HIM HOPE.



MAN IS
INCAPABLE OF
SEEING PAST THE
END OF HIS
NOSE.

HE HUGGLES
UPON THE GROUND,
STARING DOWN AT
HIS OWN FEET.





IN REALITY,
WE ARE ALL
PART OF THE
FLOW OF THE
SAME COSMIC
STREAM

EVEN
SCIENTISTS
DON'T GRASP
WHAT THEIR
CALCULATIONS
TRULY SHOW
THEM...

...INFINITY...
TIME WITHOUT SPACE...
ETERNITY...SPACE WITHOUT
BOUNDS...ENERGY BEYOND
IMAGINATION...AND WHAT
DO THEY DO WITH
THEIR FINDINGS?



ANNOUNCE
THEM AT SOCIETY
DINNERS FOR
PLAQUES AND
THE RECORDING
OF THEIR NAMES
IN THE ANNALS
OF HISTORY. NO
MORE THAN
THAT!

BUT
EVEN
SO...

THE STREAM
FLOWS ON
BEYOND OUR
AWARENESS.

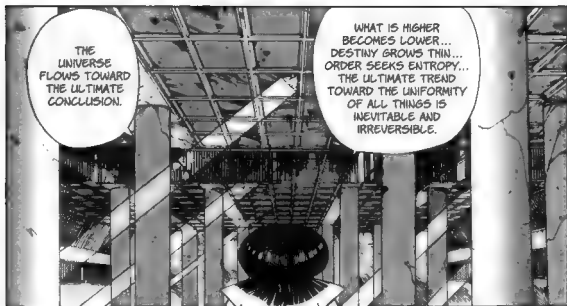


WHEN A MAN TRIES TO
SEE INTO THE DISTANCE,
WHAT DOES HE DO?

HE NARROWS
HIS EYES.

EVEN WITH
YOUR EYES
OPENED AS
WIDE AS
THEY WILL
GO...

...YOU CANNOT
PERCEIVE SOME-
THING SO LARGE
THAT IT IS BEYOND
THE RANGE OF
YOUR VISION.



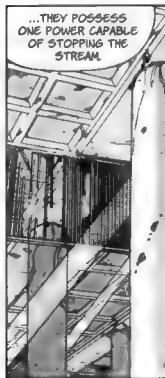
THE
UNIVERSE
FLOWS TOWARD
THE ULTIMATE
CONCLUSION.

WHAT IS HIGHER
BECOMES LOWER...
DESTINY GROWS THIN...
ORDER SEEKS ENTROPY...
THE ULTIMATE TREND
TOWARD THE UNIFORMITY
OF ALL THINGS IS
INEVITABLE AND
IRREVERSIBLE.



MEN GATHER
TOGETHER AS
THOUGH THEY WOULD
REVERSE THE COSMIC
STREAM, BUT IN TRUTH
THEY ARE ONLY
DRIFTWOOD.

YET, EVEN
AS THE STREAM
SWEEPS THEM
ALONG...



...THEY POSSESS
ONE POWER CAPABLE
OF STOPPING THE
STREAM.



WHEN THIS POWER IS
USED, THE STREAM WILL
STOP FOR AN INSTANT...AND
THEN RESUME ITS COURSE
WITH REDOUBLED
INTENSITY.



WHEN IT IS
BEFORE THEM, PEOPLE
RECOGNIZE THE STREAM
FOR WHAT IT IS AND
FEAR ITS POWER...

...AS YOU'VE
ALREADY
SEEN.



LOOK
BEYOND
FORM AND
CONSIDER
SUBSTANCE

AKIRA IS
NOT IN THE
STREAM



THAT
STUFF ABOUT
STREAMS AND
VISION IS JUST
METAPHYSICAL
BULLSHIT!

I WANT
TO KNOW
SOMETHING
CONCRETE!
WHAT THE
HELL IS
AKIRA?!

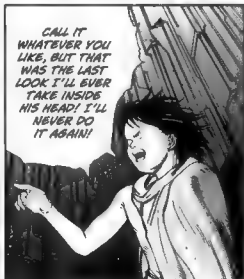
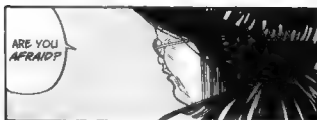


PEOPLE IN
THE STREAM
WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



WELL, YOU
TALK LIKE
YOU'VE GOT
A HANDLE
ON IT!

TELL
ME WHAT
ALL THIS
MEANS!







TO EXERT YOUR FULL
POWER, YOU MUST CLEANSE
YOUR BODY OF INFLUENCES.
WHEN YOU CAN OVERCOME YOUR
OWN WEAKNESS, THE POWER
WILL FLOW FROM YOU
FREELY.



SHUT UP,
YOU OLD BAG!
I DIDN'T COME
HERE TO LISTEN
TO A LECTURE!



IF YOU
WOULD BECOME
CLOSE TO AKIRA,
YOU MUST
LEARN SELF-
CONTROL.

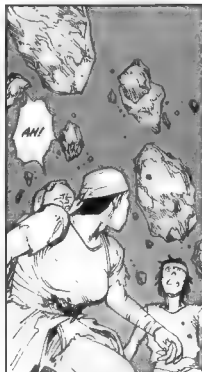


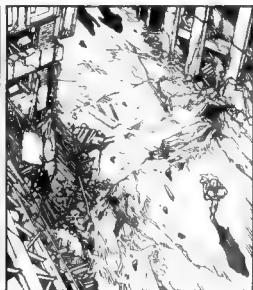
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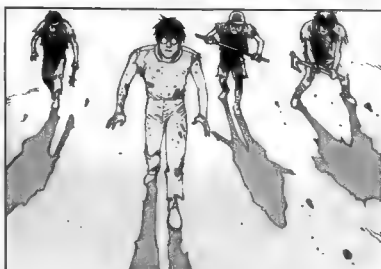
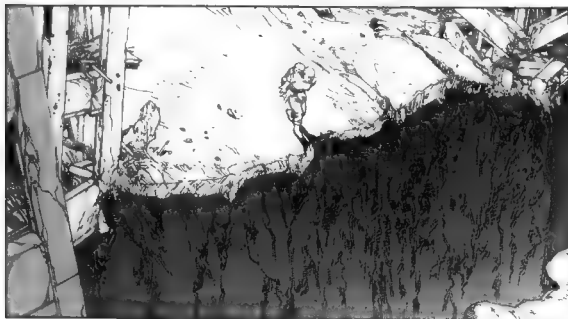




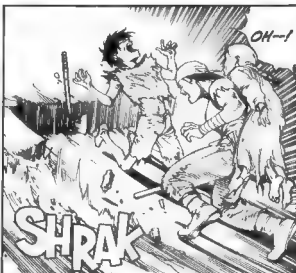
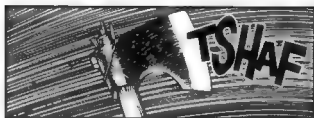


















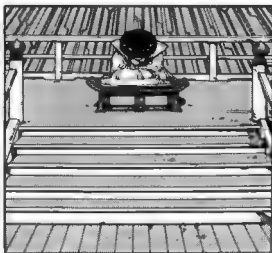


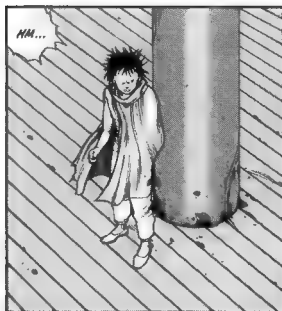


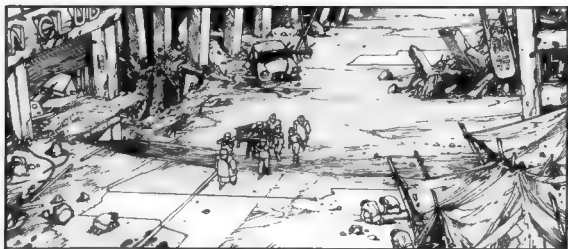


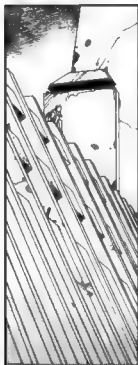


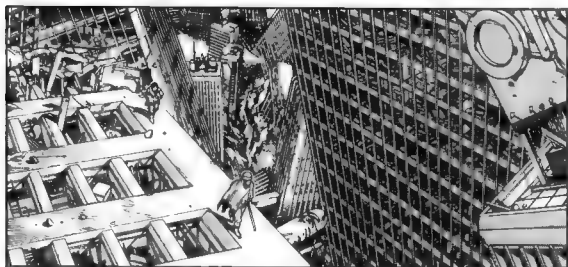


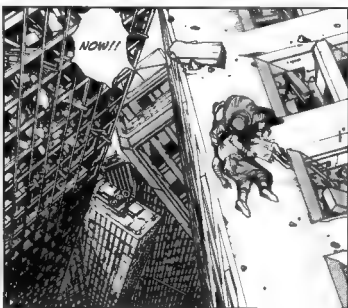


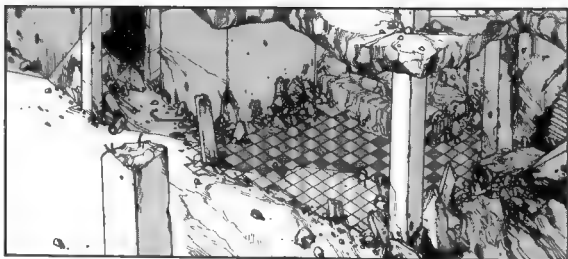


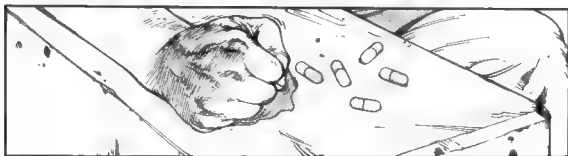
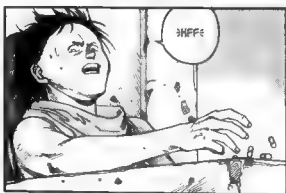
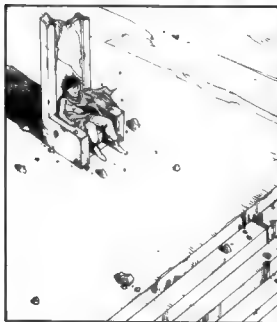


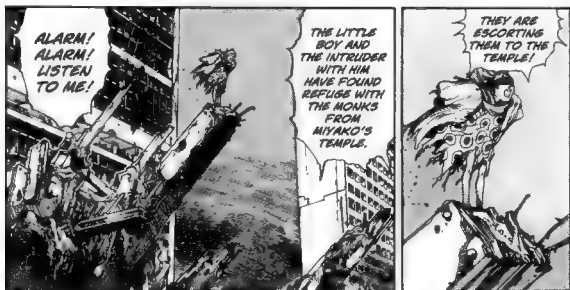


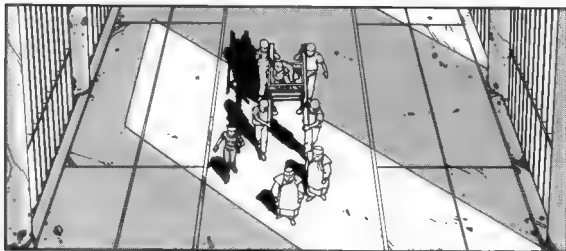


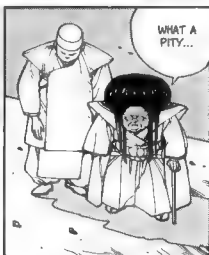
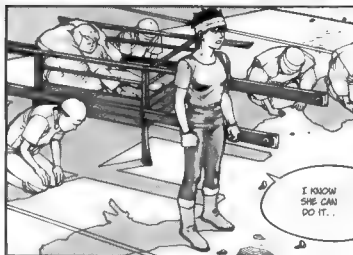


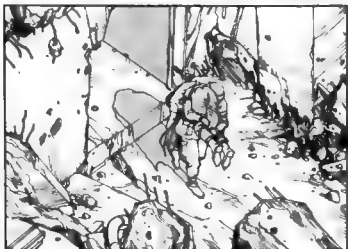
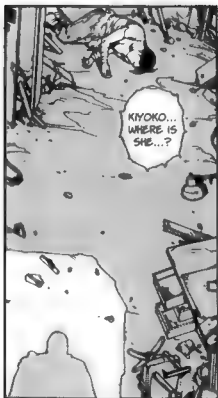




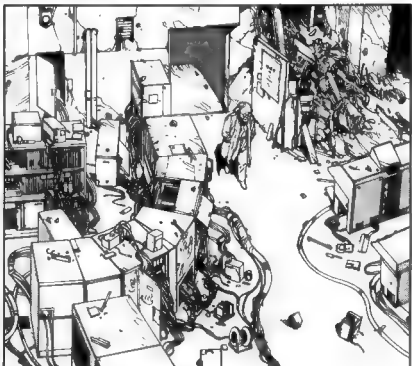


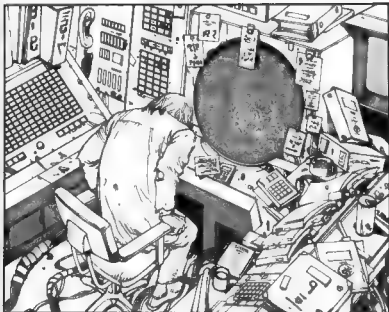


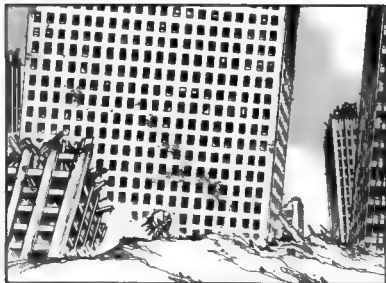


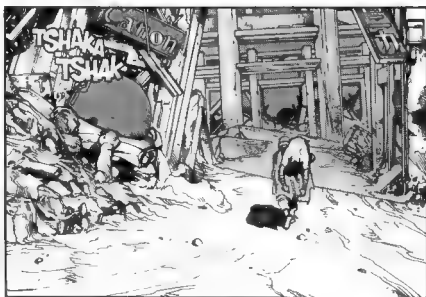
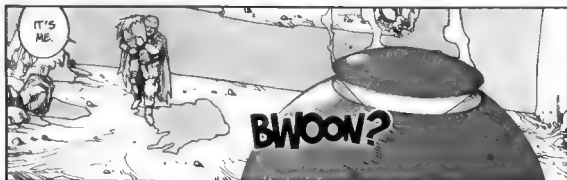
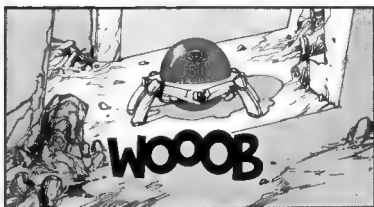
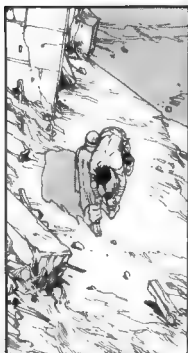


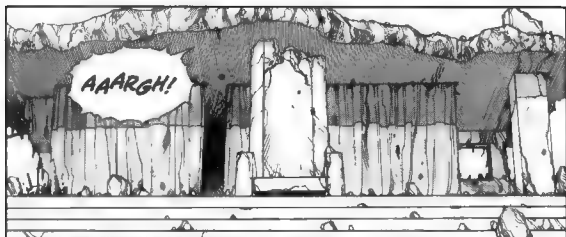


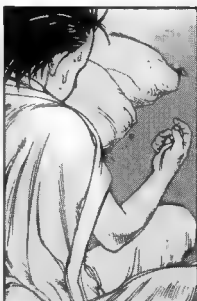
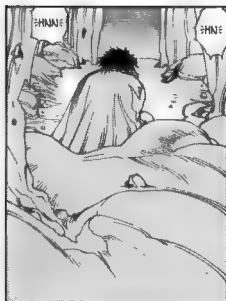












SO, FRIEND, YOU
FIGURE OUT WHAT
THAT SCREAM
WAS?

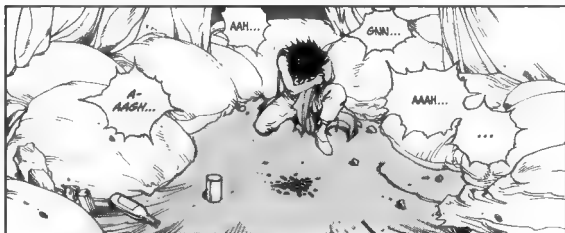
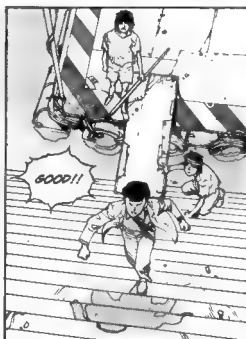
NOPE.

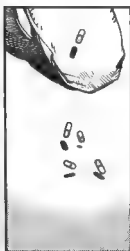
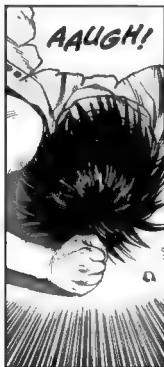
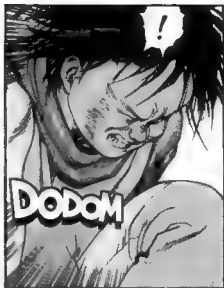


LOOKS PRETTY
PEACEFUL, DOESN'T
IT? LITTLE AKIRA,
PLAYING IN THE WATER,
LIKE ANY NORMAL
KID...



YOU WON'T,
SITTING ALL THE WAY
OVER HERE, LOOKING
THROUGH BINOCULARS.
WHY DON'T YOU
GO AND SEE?



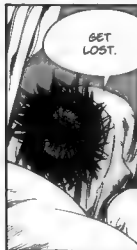




WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?!



IT...IT'S
ABOUT THOSE
KIDS WE WERE
AFTER...



GET
LOST.



BUT, MASTER
TETSUO, ONE
OF THEM...

...IS IN THE
HANDS OF
MIYAKO'S
MONKS.



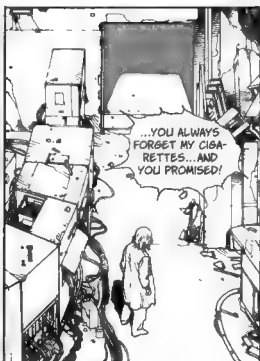
GET YOUR
ASS OUT
OF HERE!

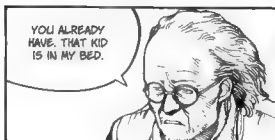
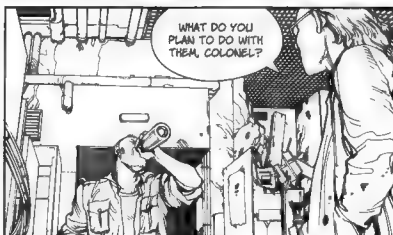
Y-
YESSIR!

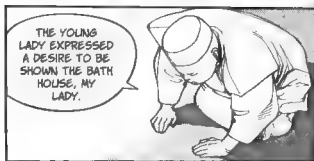
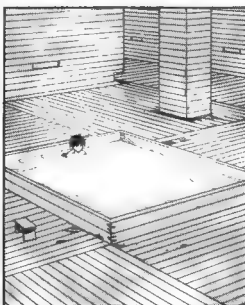
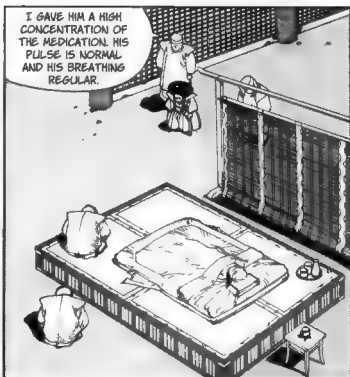


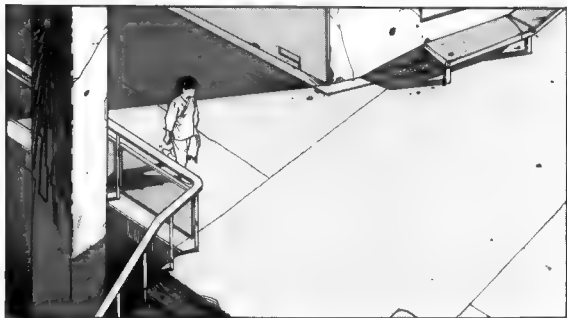
LEAVE
ME...

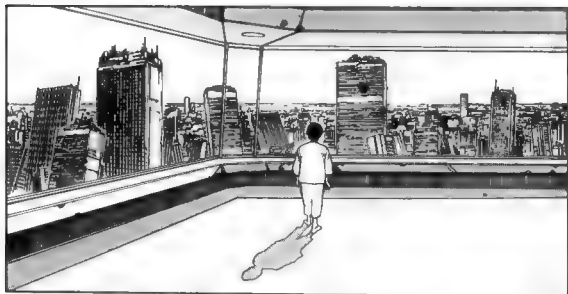
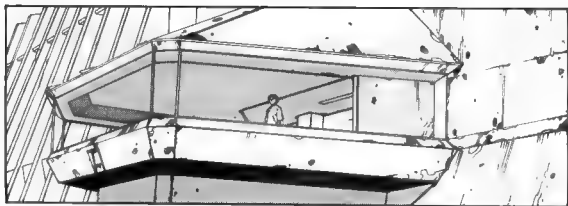








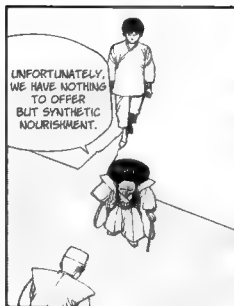






YOU MUST BE HUNGRY. WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT?

I'M FAMISHED.

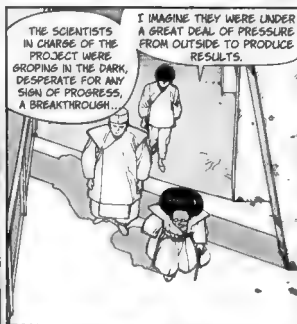




I WAS JUST
TEN YEARS OLD
AT THE TIME.



THERE WAS A
GROUP OF US,
ALL ABOUT
THE SAME
AGE.

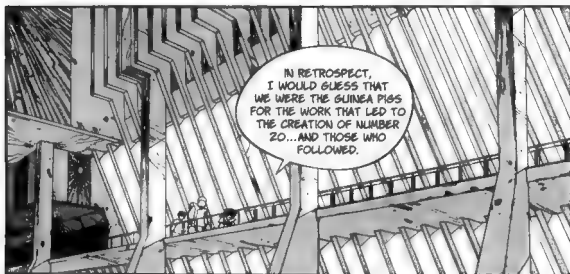


THE SCIENTISTS
IN CHARGE OF THE
PROJECT WERE
GROPING IN THE DARK,
DESPERATE FOR ANY
SIGN OF PROGRESS,
A BREAKTHROUGH...

I IMAGINE THEY WERE UNDER
A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE
FROM OUTSIDE TO PRODUCE
RESULTS.



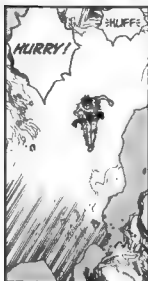
THEY TOOK
CHANCES WITH
A VERY RISKY
PROCESS.

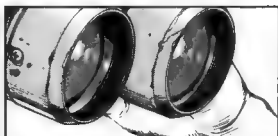
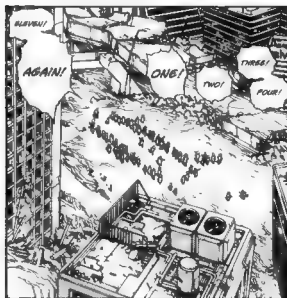


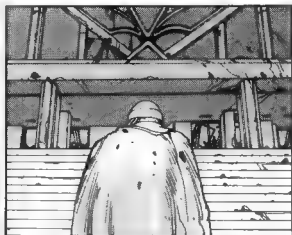
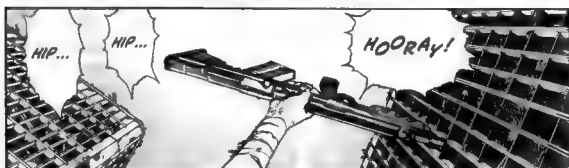
IN RETROSPECT,
I WOULD GUESS THAT
WE WERE THE GUINEA PIGS
FOR THE WORK THAT LED TO
THE CREATION OF NUMBER
20...AND THOSE WHO
FOLLOWED.

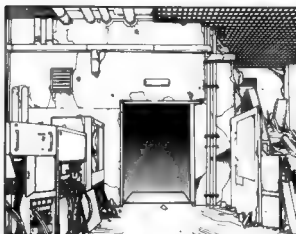
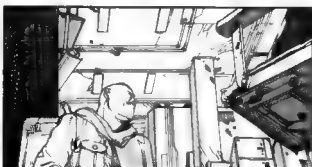
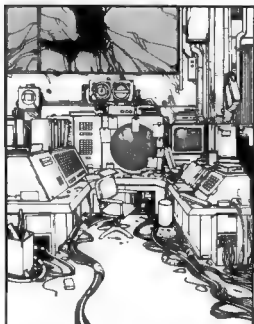








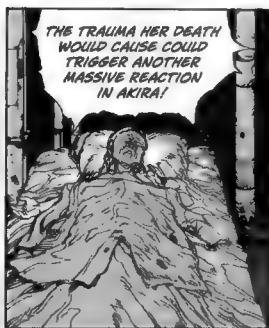








KILL HER
RIGHT
NOW!



THE TRAUMA HER DEATH
WOULD CAUSE COULD
TRIGGER ANOTHER
MASSIVE REACTION
IN AKIRA!

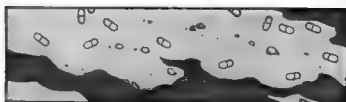
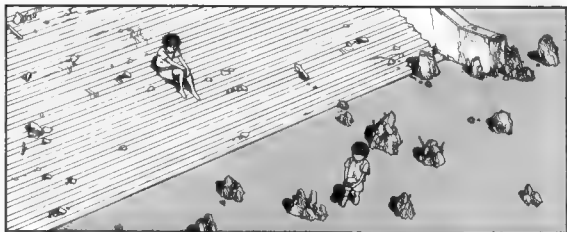


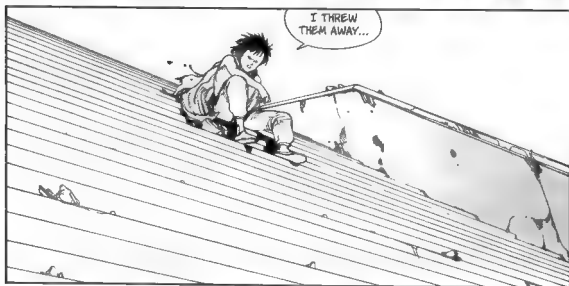
FOOL!
DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
ANYTHINS?



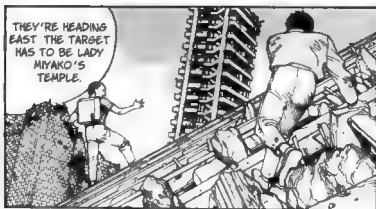
I HAVE
NOTHING
LEFT TO
LOSE!

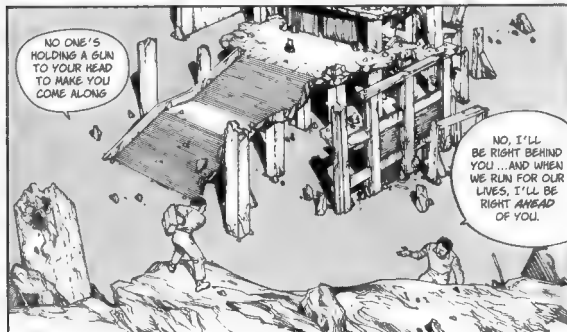
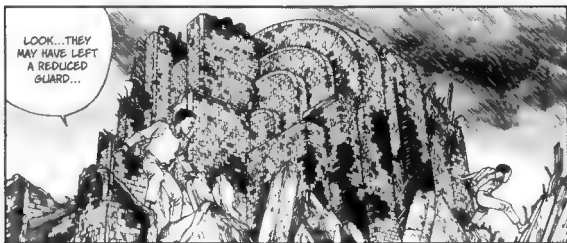


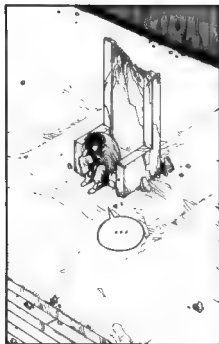


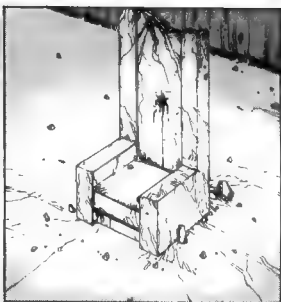


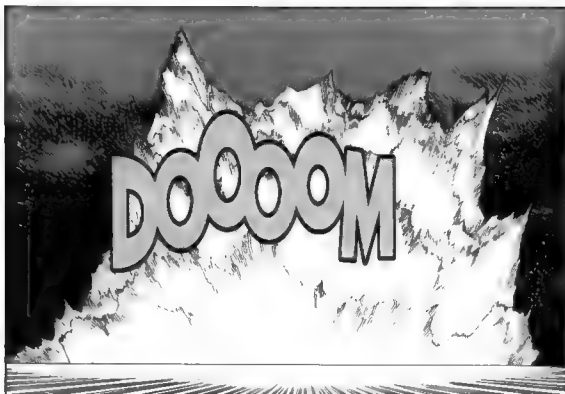
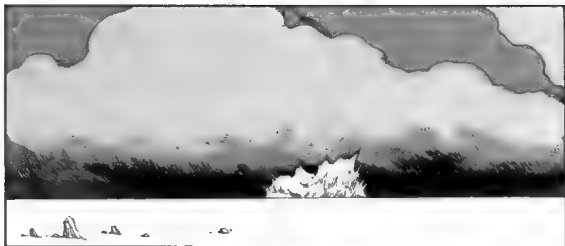


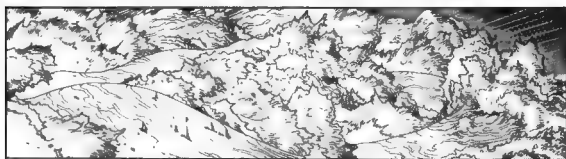




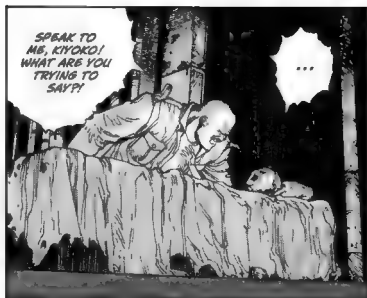


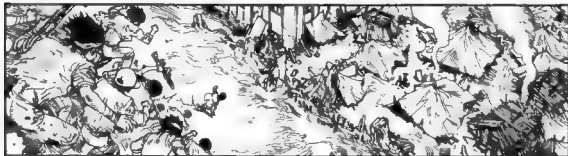
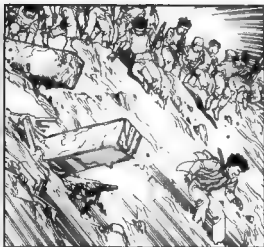


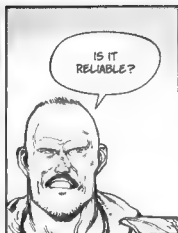




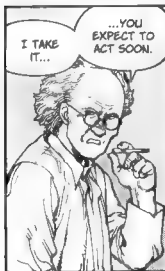




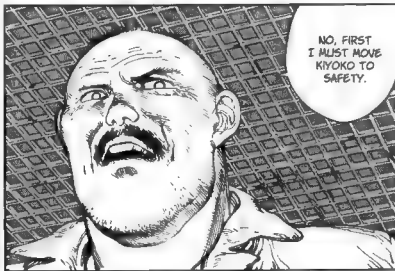




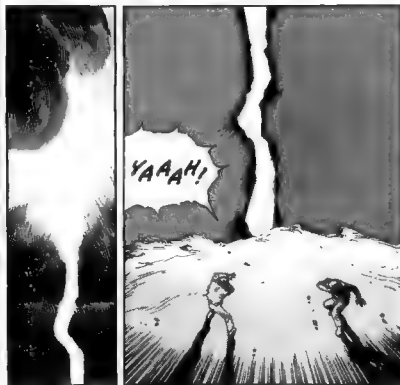
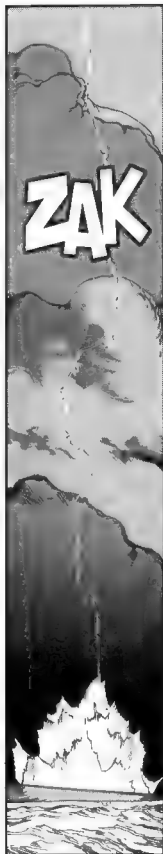
WITH
SO MUCH
MINIATURIZATION,
PRECISION IS
IMPOSSIBLE.



...YOU
EXPECT TO
ACT SOON.



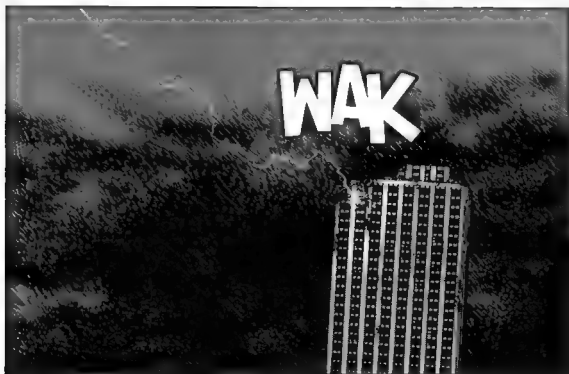
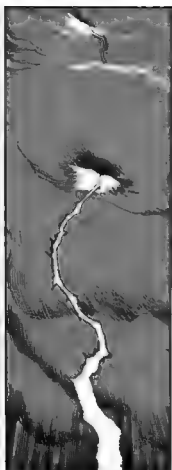
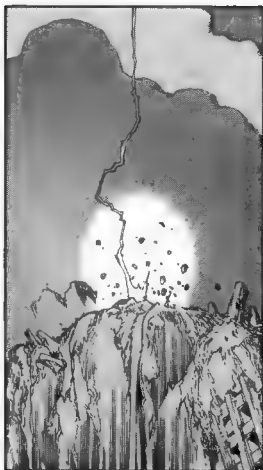
NO, FIRST
I MUST MOVE
KIKYO TO
SAFETY.



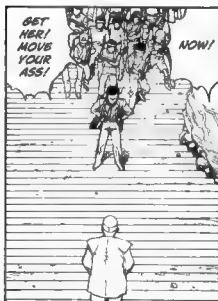


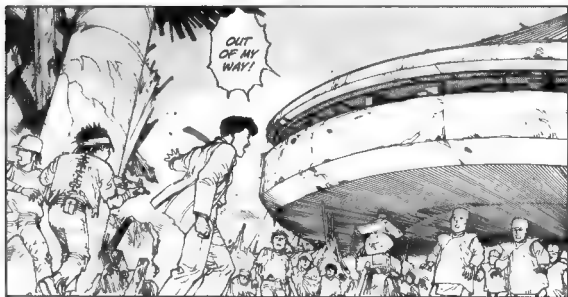
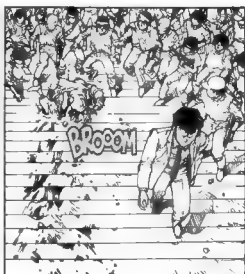


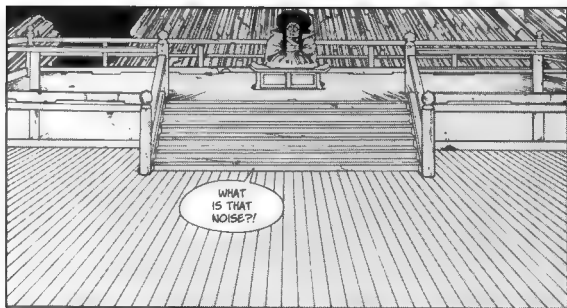




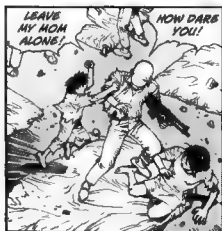
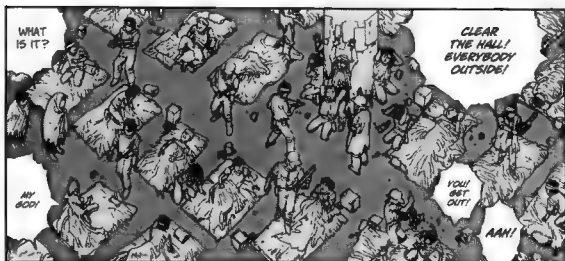




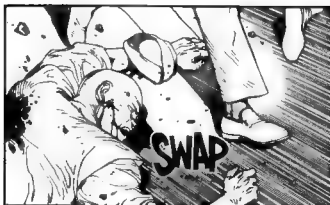




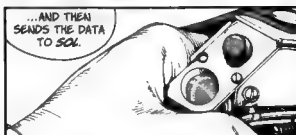
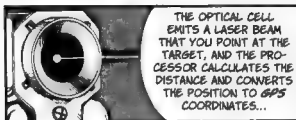
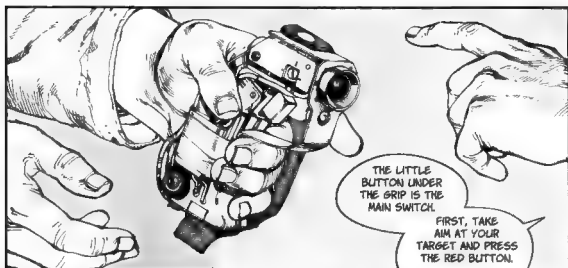


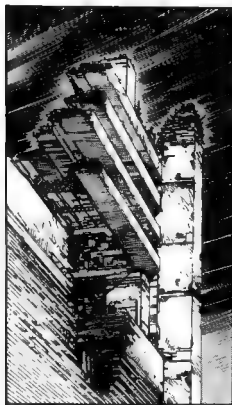




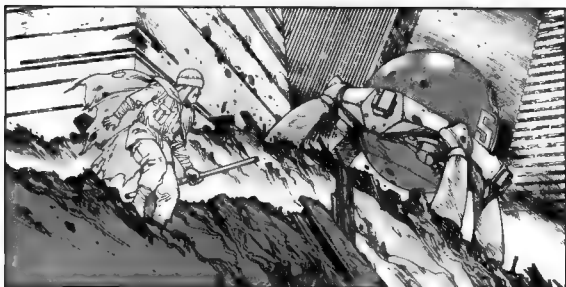


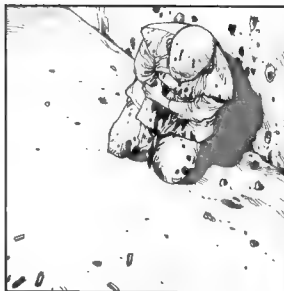


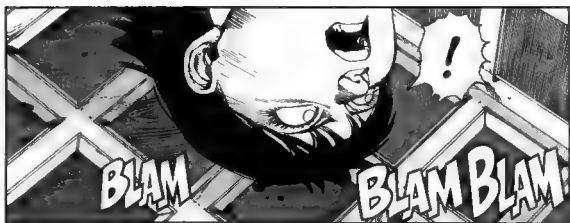




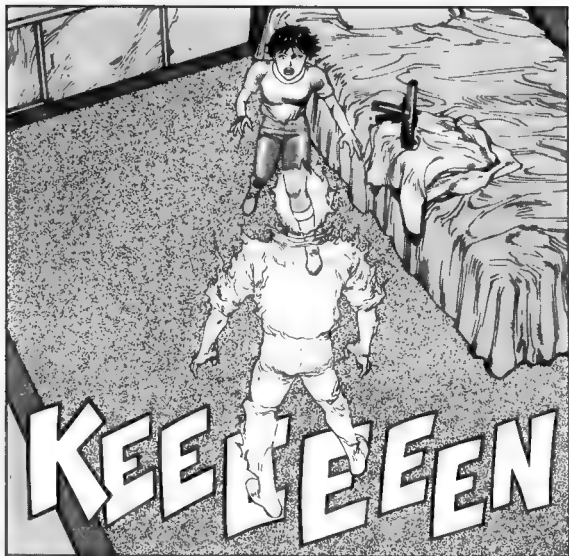




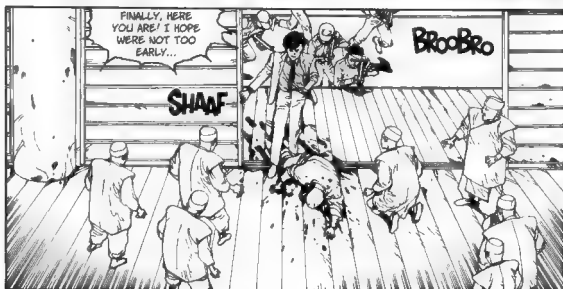
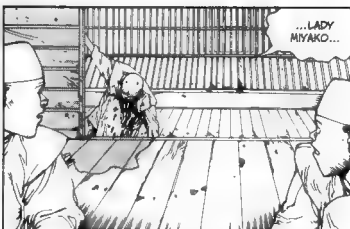


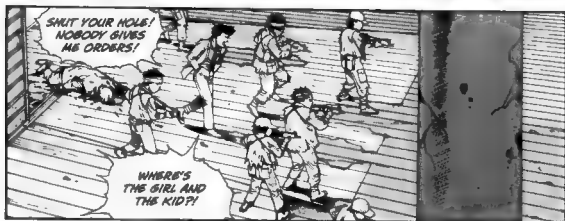
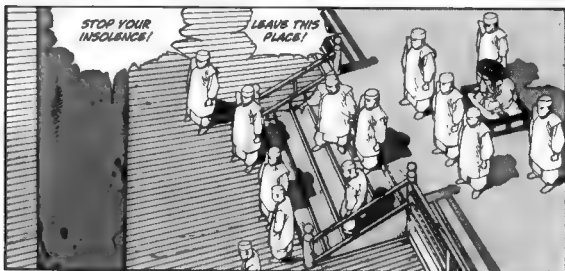




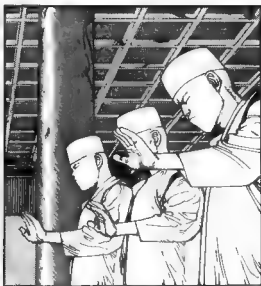






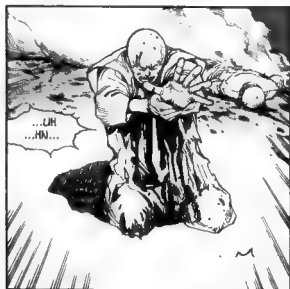


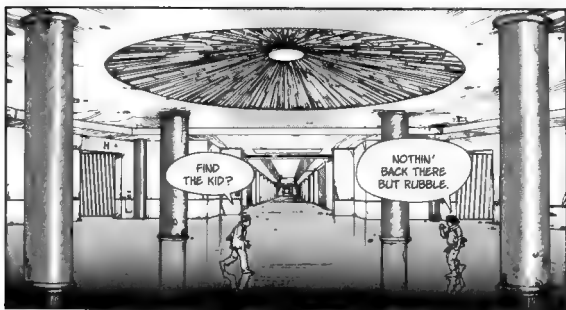






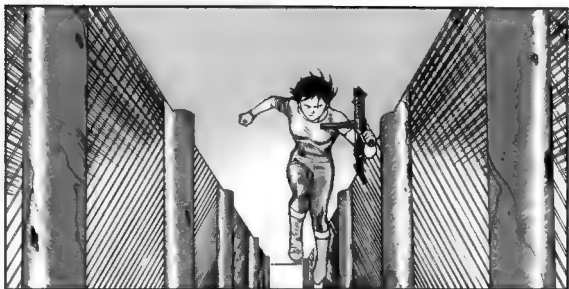




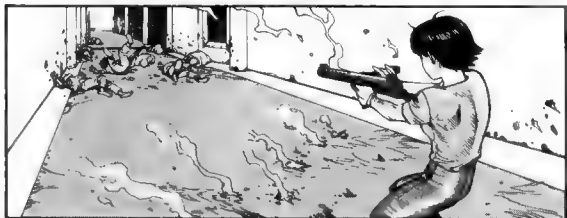


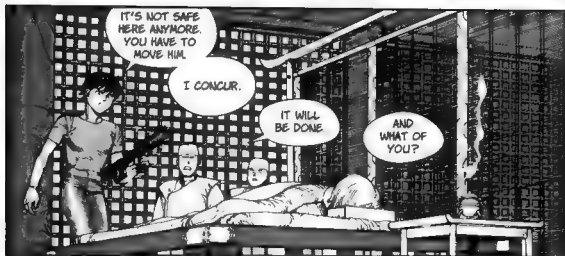
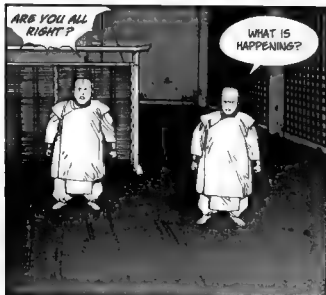




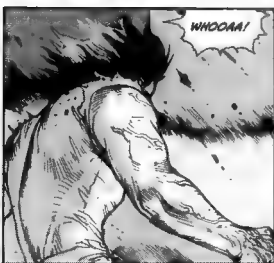


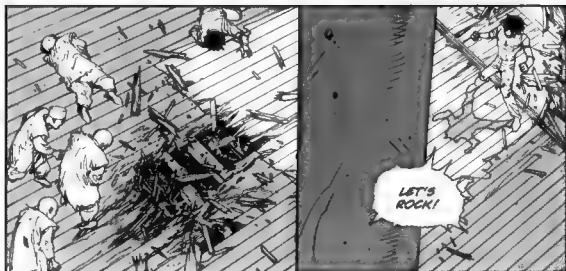


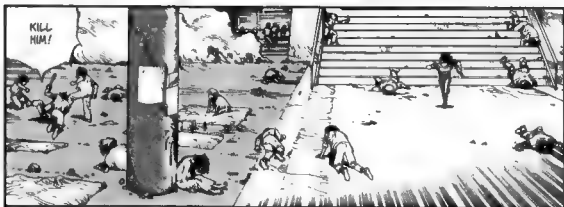
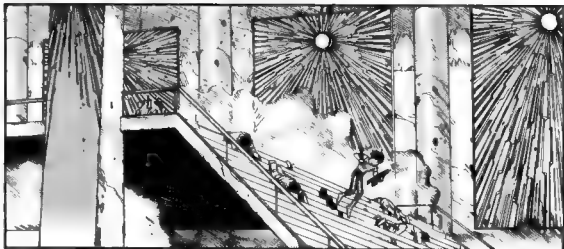


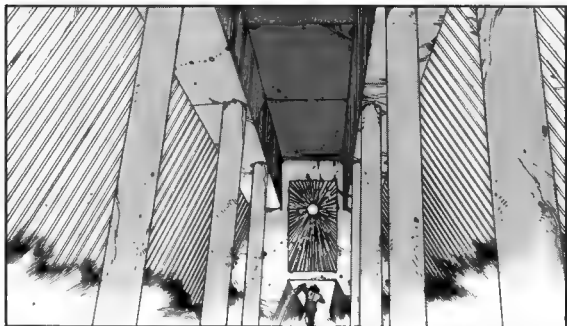




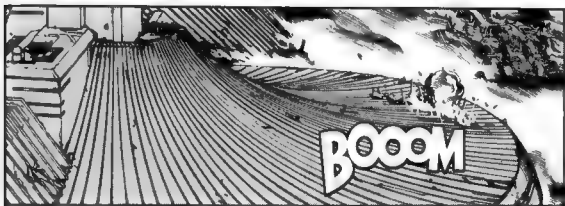
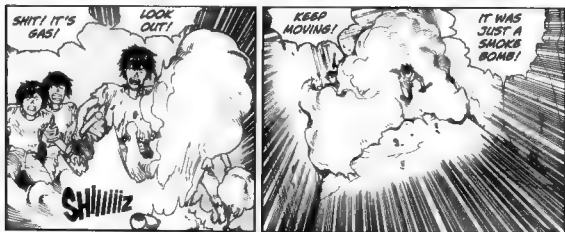


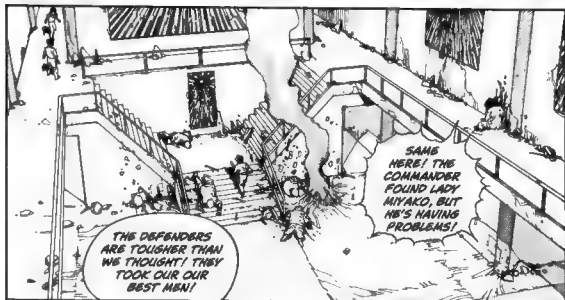


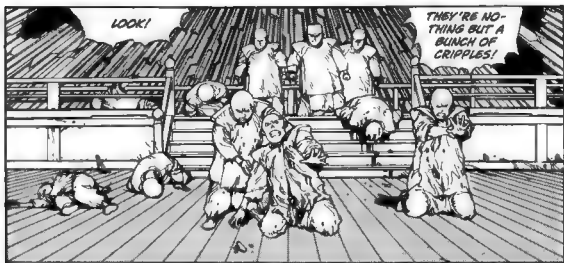
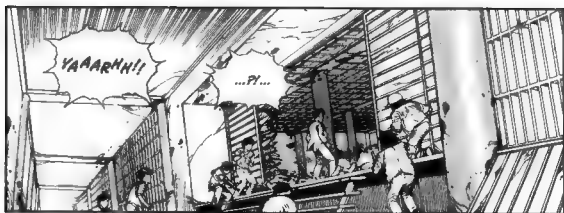


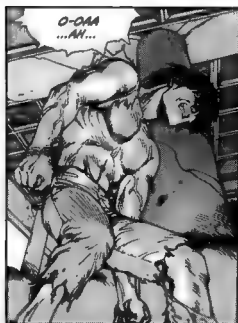






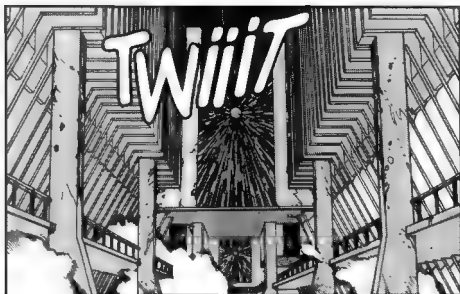


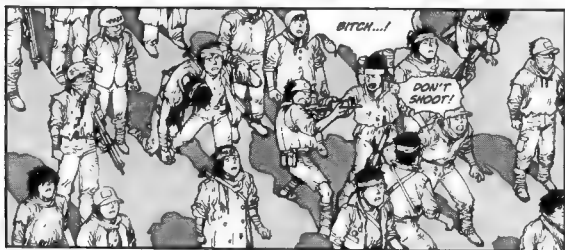
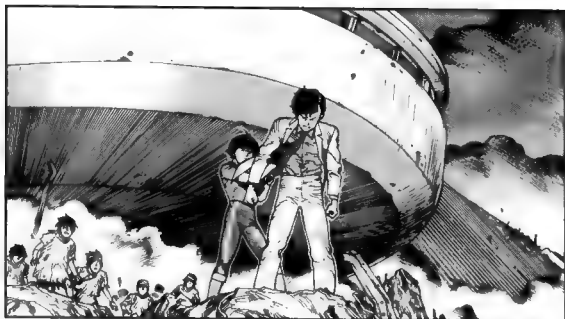






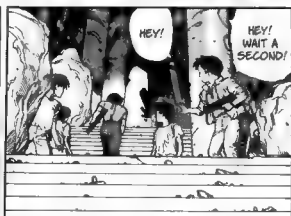
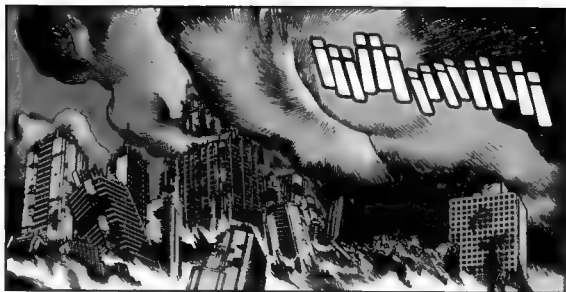




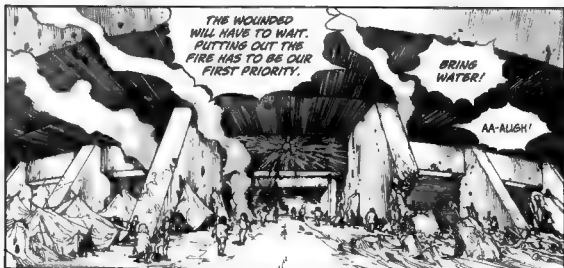








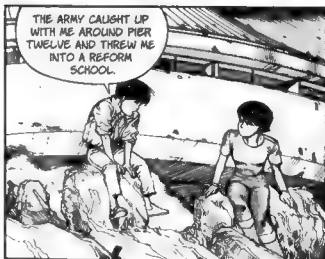




THE WOUNDED
WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
PUTTING OUT THE
FIRE HAS TO BE OUR
FIRST PRIORITY.

BRING
WATER!

AA-AUGH!



THE ARMY CAUGHT UP
WITH ME AROUND PIER
TWELVE AND THREW ME
INTO A REFORM
SCHOOL.



BEING
THERE SAVED
MY ASS.



IT ALL
SEEMS SO
FAR AWAY NOW
LIKE ANOTHER
LIFE.



Y'KNOW,
THOSE GUYS
WILL BE BACK.



I'LL HELP
YOU WHEN
THEY DO.

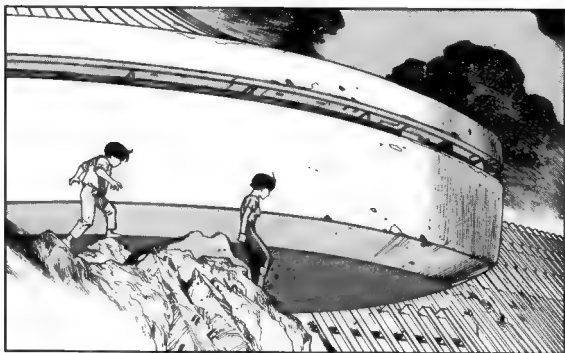


AND
I'VE GOT
FRIENDS.



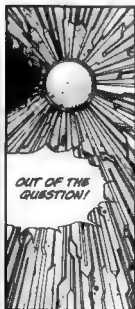
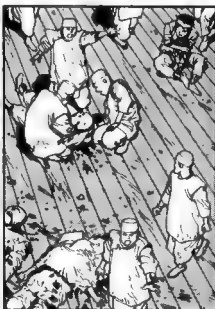
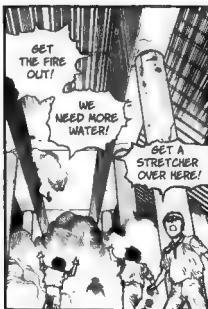
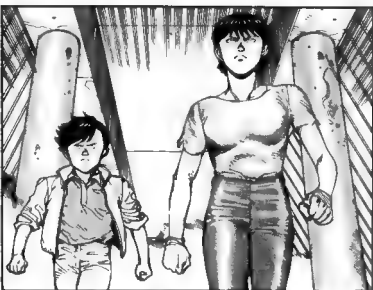


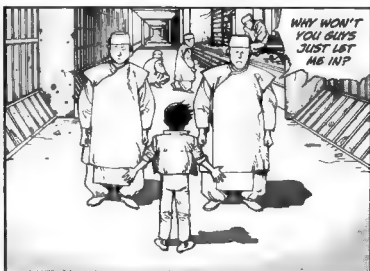








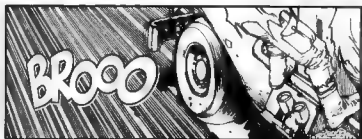
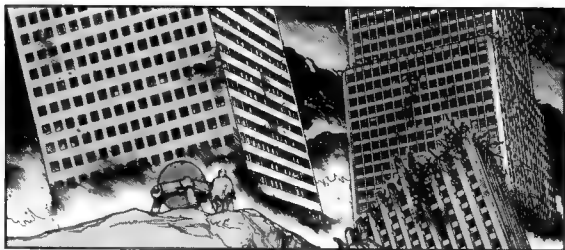






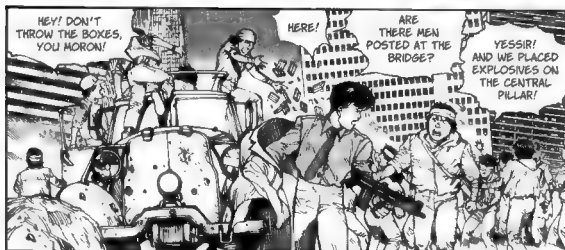




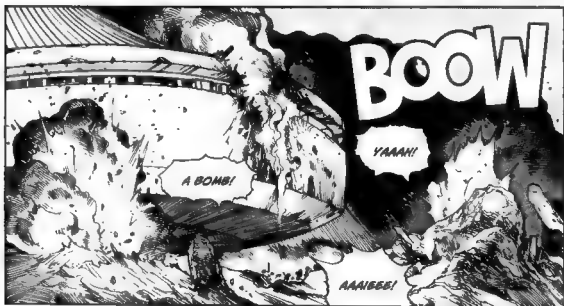
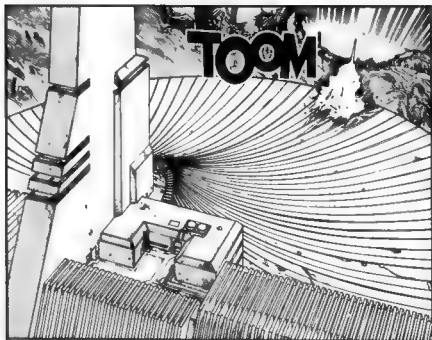


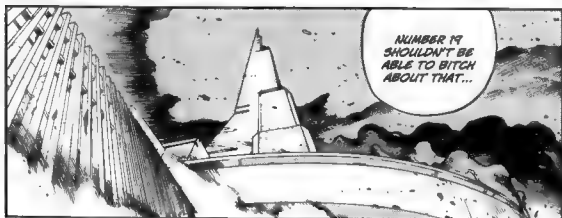




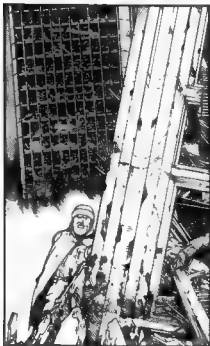


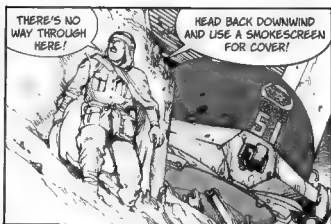












THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH HERE!

HEAD BACK DOWNWIND AND USE A SMOKESCREEN FOR COVER!



BINK



FREEZE!

ONE MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD!



P2-A6



IF YOU MAKE ME SHOOT YOU...

THINK ABOUT IT!

...YOU'LL SUFFER AND DIE!

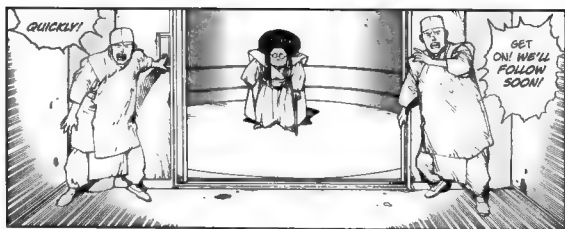
IT'D BE A SHAME...

...TO END IT HERE!







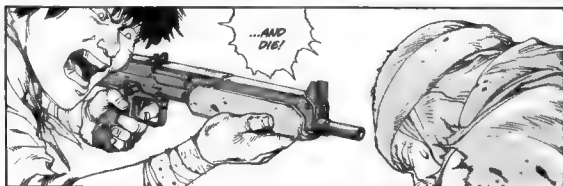


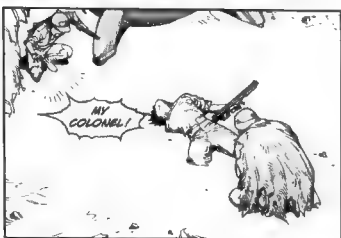
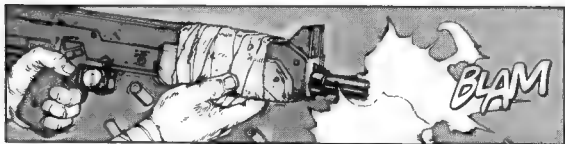














ARE YOU
SURE IT'S THE
SAME LITTLE
GIRL?



A STRANGER
HAD HER HIDDEN
IN ONE OF
THOSE CARE-
TAKER
ROBOTS.

SHE LOOKS
JUST LIKE THE
KID WE'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR.



GOOD!

ALL
THE PRETTY
FLOWERS...



... FINALLY
TOGETHER
IN ONE BIG
BOUQUET!



THERE ARE TWO
MEN GUARDING THE
STRANGER, BUT HE
LOOKS PRETTY
TOUGH.



TAKE FIVE
OR SIX MORE
WITH YOU

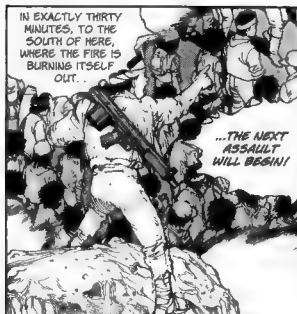
IF HE
GIVES YOU ANY
TROUBLE, KILL HIM!
BUT LEAVE THE
GIRL ALONE.



HEY,
YOU
GUYS!

... I DON'T
WANT HER
TOUCHED!

LISTEN
UP!

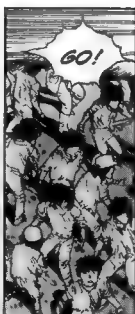


IN EXACTLY THIRTY MINUTES, TO THE SOUTH OF HERE, WHERE THE FIRE IS BURNING ITSELF OUT...

...THE NEXT ASSAULT WILL BEGIN!



EVERY MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF HIS WEAPON. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION. THEN FORM RANKS AND AWAIT YOUR ORDERS!



GO!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?



TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FORCES-- THEIR WEAPONS AND THEIR MANPOWER.

UH...YES, SIR.

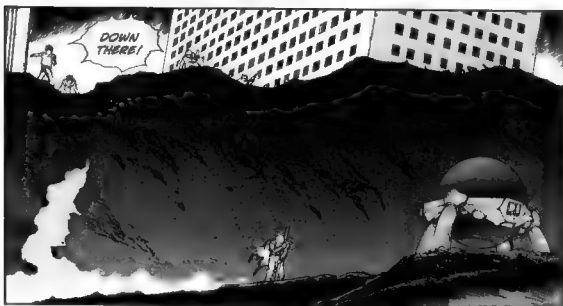


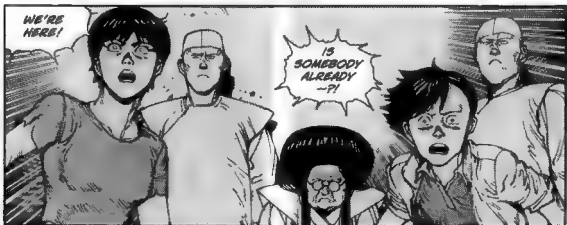
THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY MEN, BUT ONLY ABOUT HALF HAVE ANY TRAINING. BUT WE HAVE PLENTY OF WEAPONS AND AMMO

THOSE... THOSE TRAINED SOLDIERS...

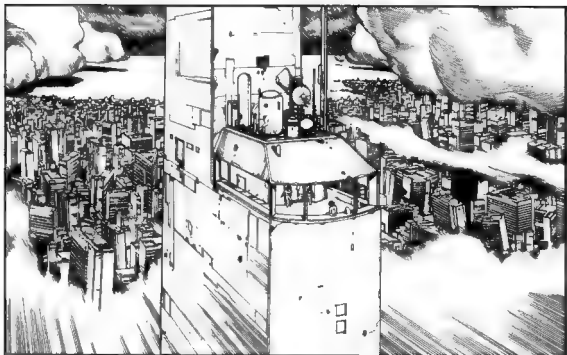
...BY CHANCE, WOULD THEY BE...





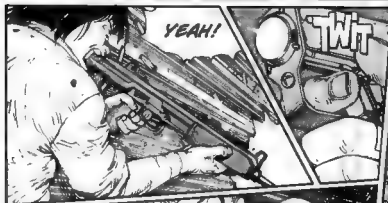




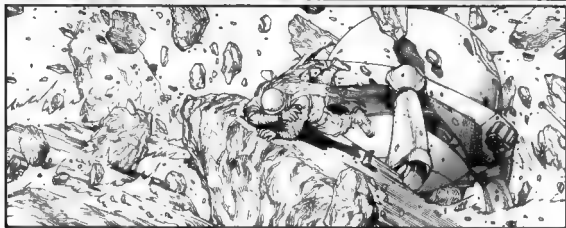


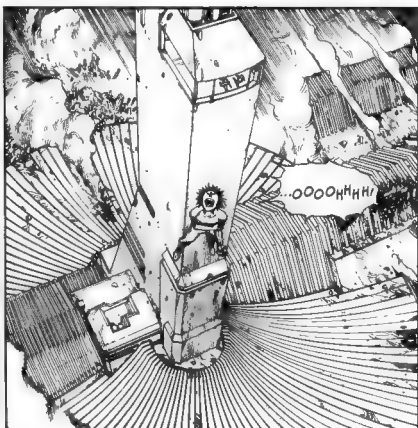






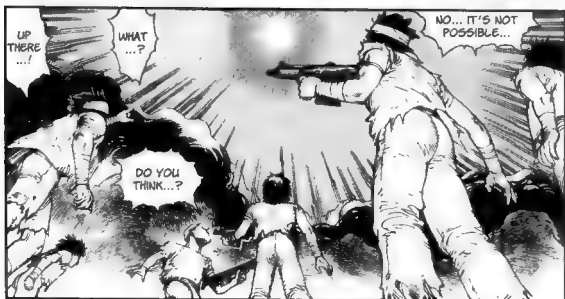


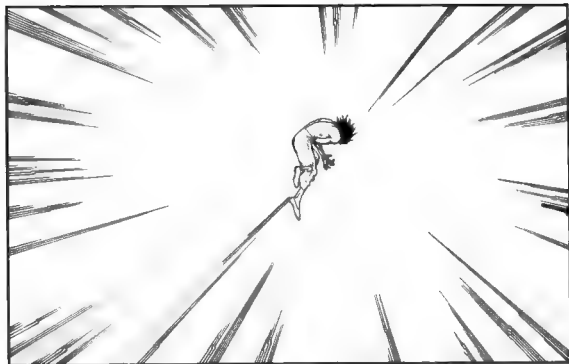


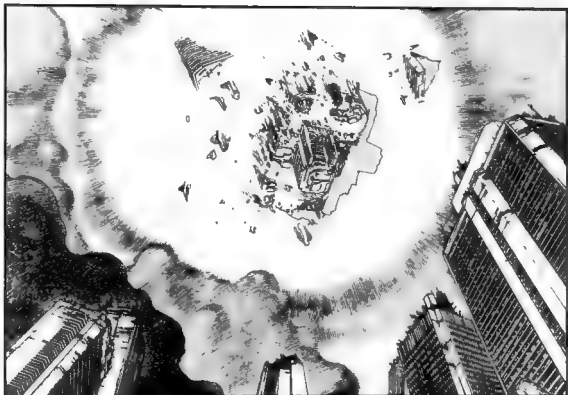


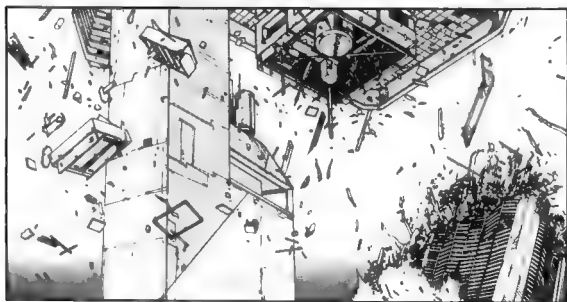
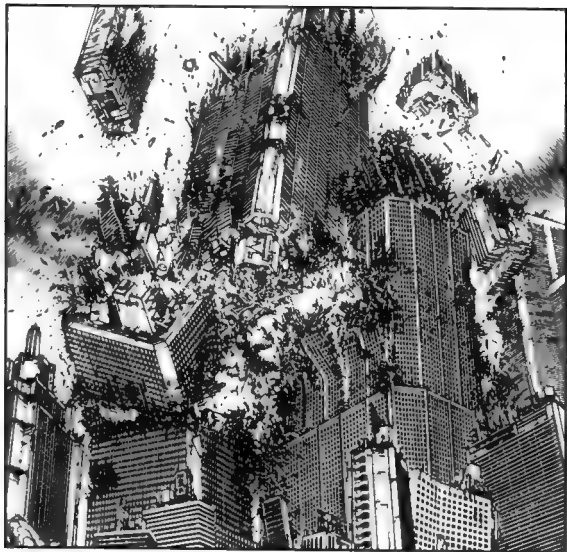


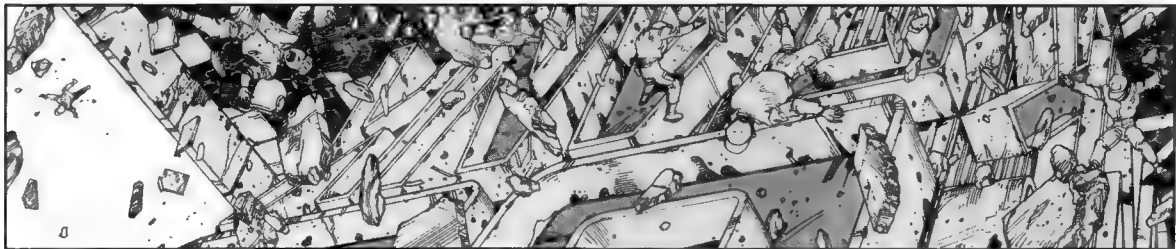
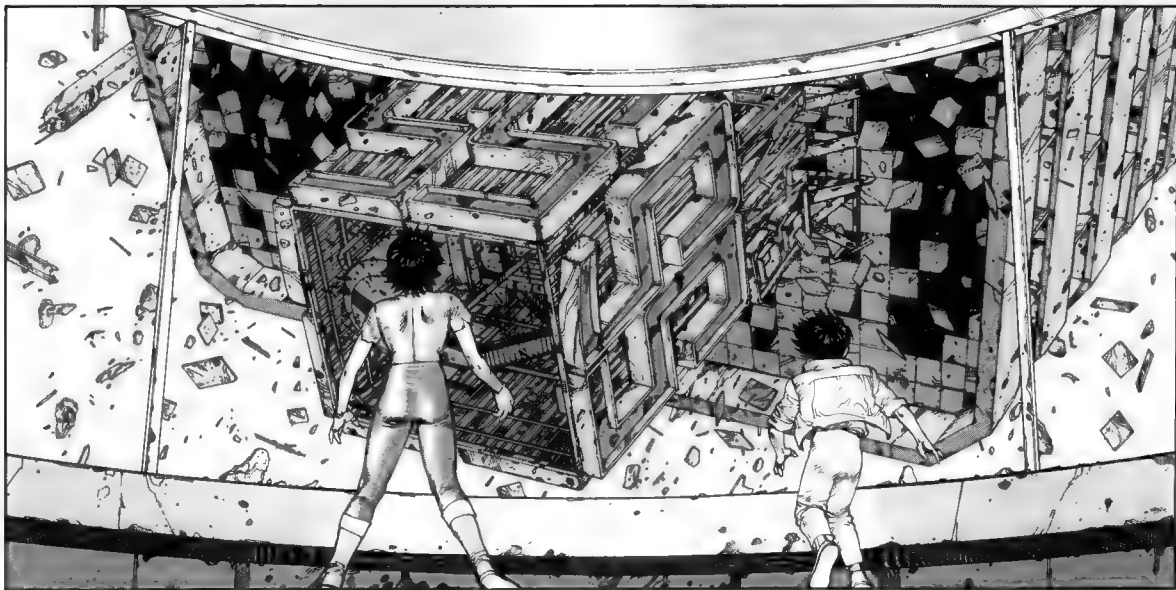


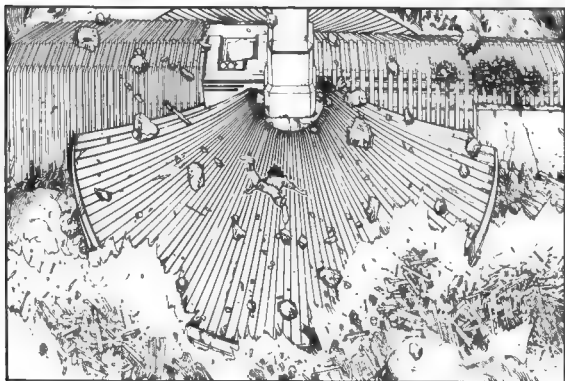
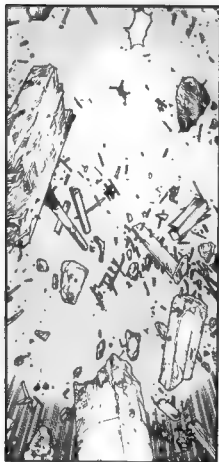


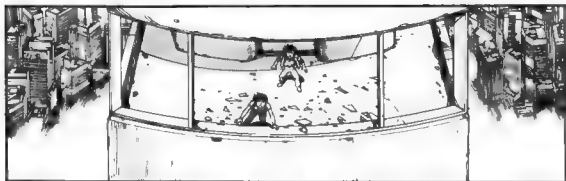




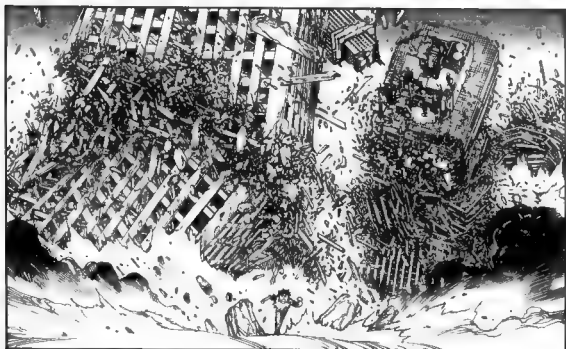
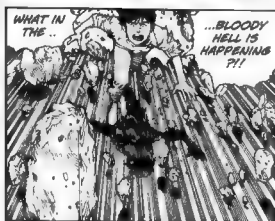
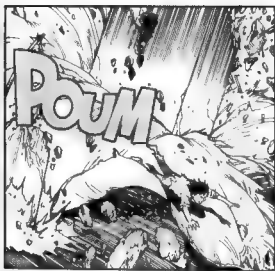
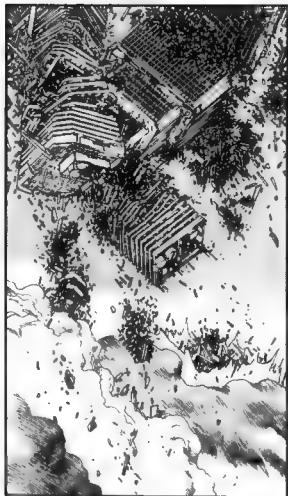


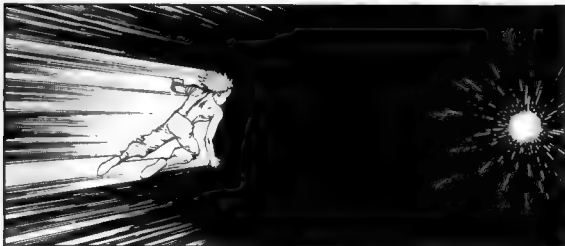


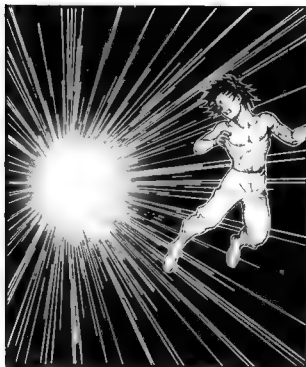
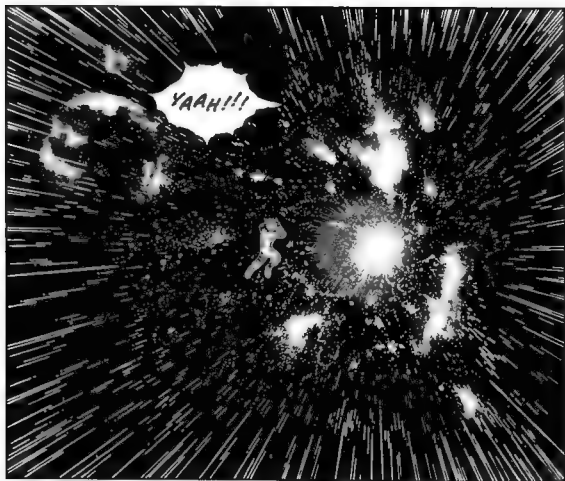


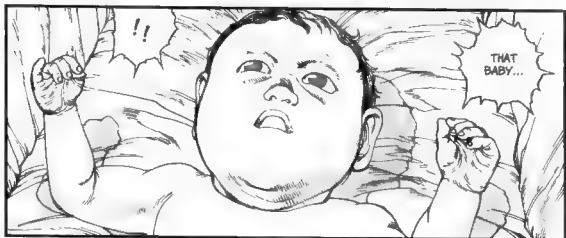


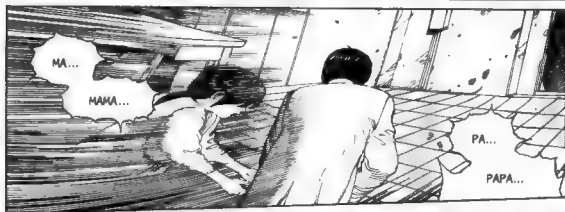


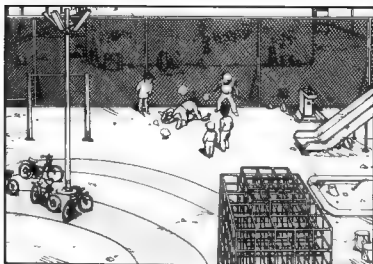


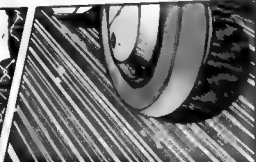
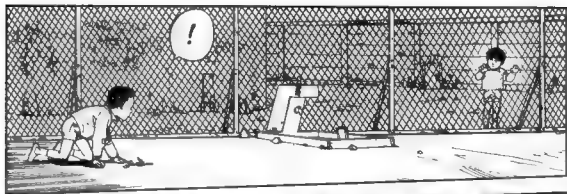




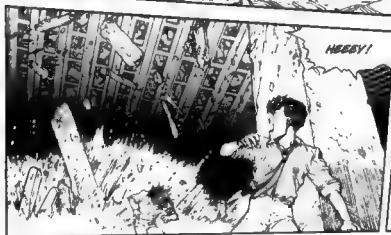
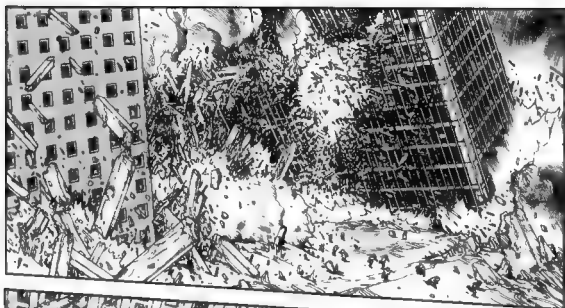


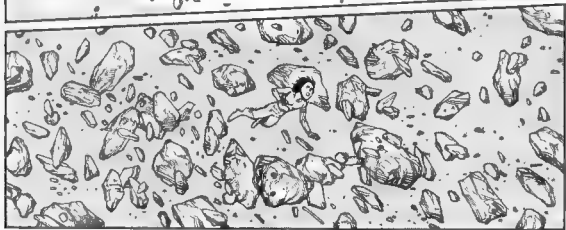
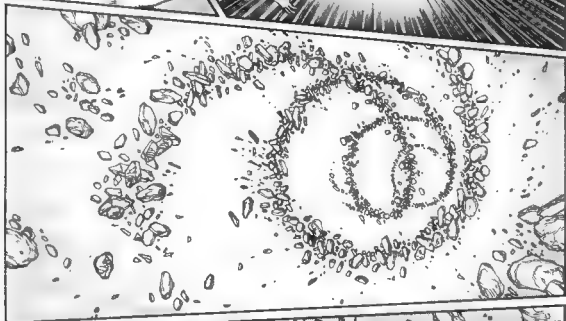
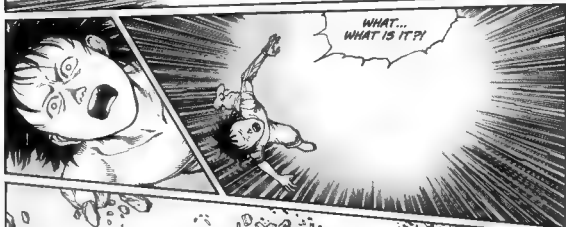
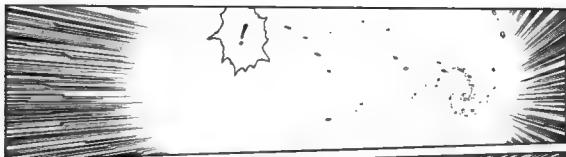


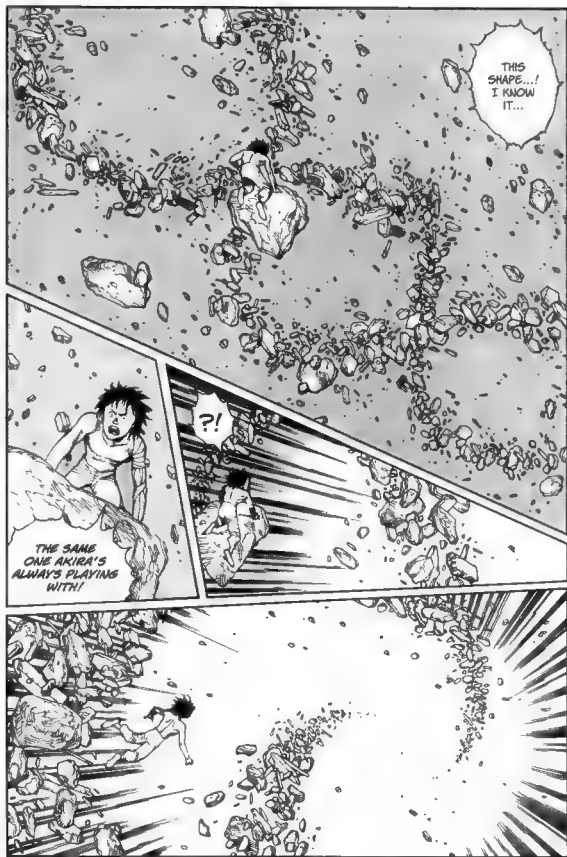


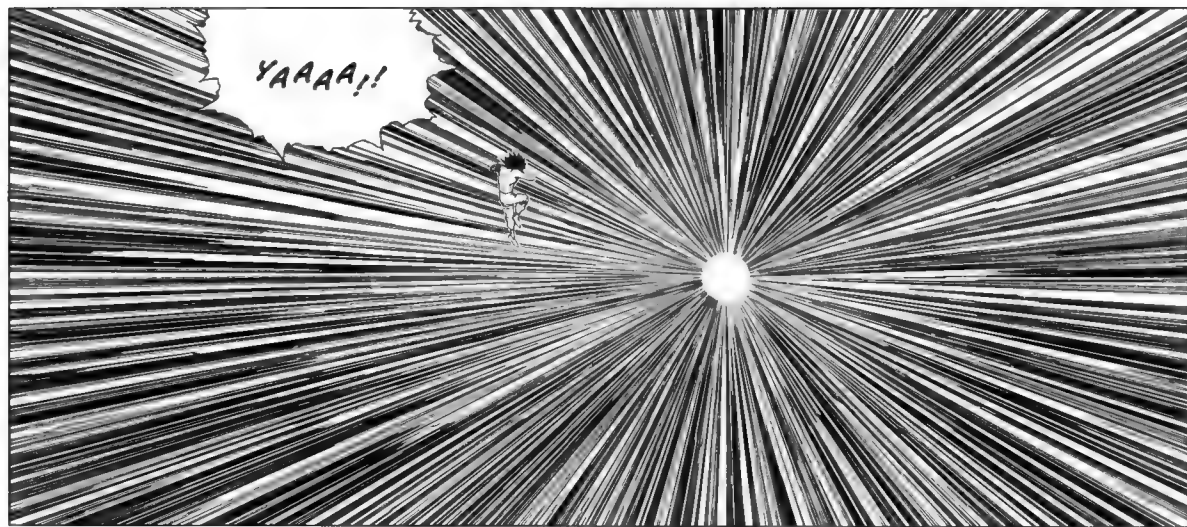


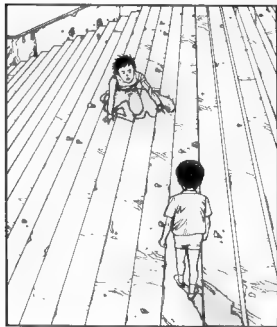
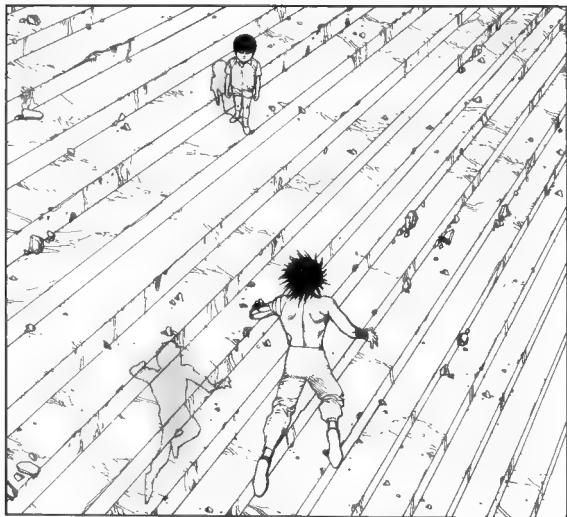


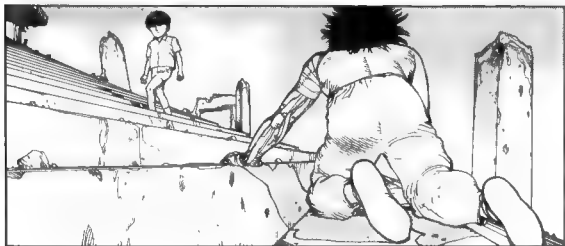
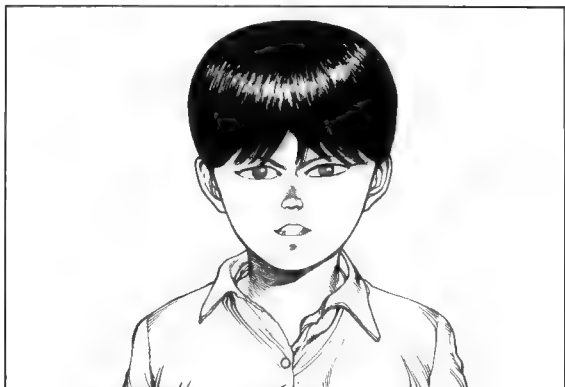


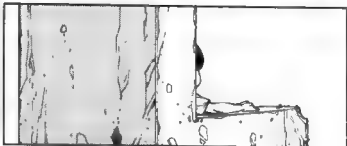


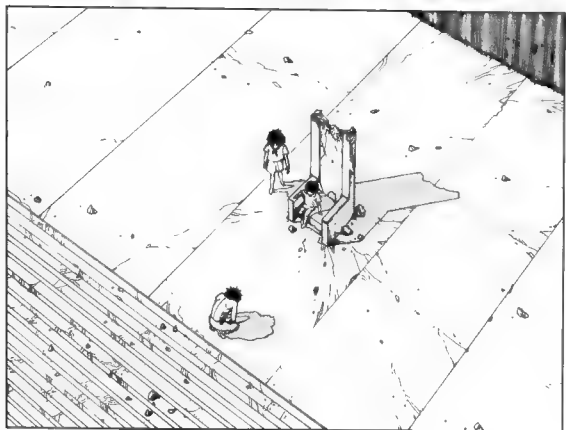
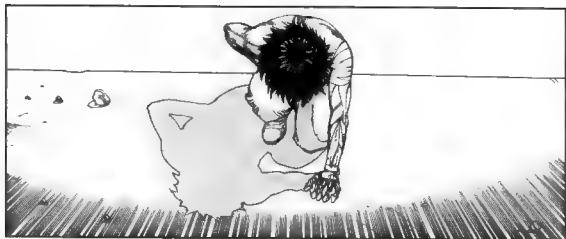


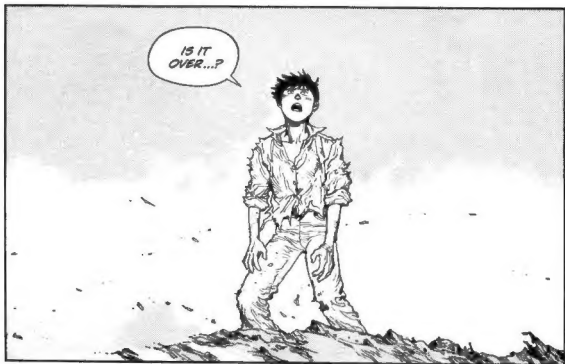
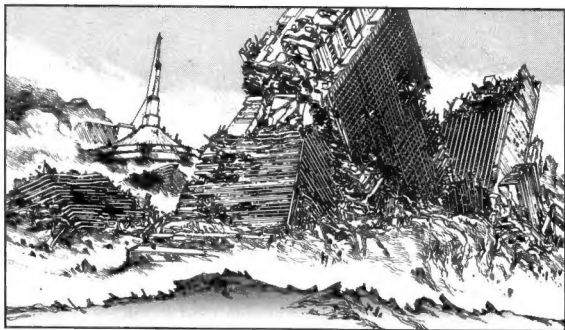


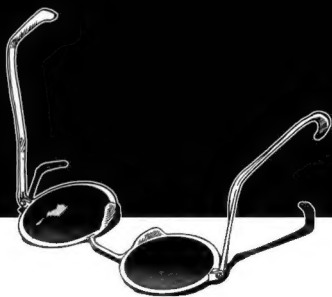














SUFFERING THE FATE THAT BESET

its namesake three decades earlier, 21st century Neo-Tokyo lies in ruin. Set off by the bullet of a would-be assassin, the godlike telekinetic fury of the superhuman child Akira has once again demolished in seconds that which took decades and untold billions to build. Now cut off from the rest of world, the Great Tokyo Empire rises, with Akira its king, the psychic juggernaut Tetsuo its mad prime minister, and a growing army of fanatic acolytes ready to go to any length to please their masters. Forces on the outside still search for a way to stop Akira, and the answer may lie in the hands of the mysterious Lady Miyako, a powerful member of Akira's paranormal brotherhood. But the solution to harnessing Akira may ultimately be more dangerous than Akira himself!

Nearly twenty years since its original release in Japan, *Akira* remains one of the most widely acclaimed and influential works of graphic fiction, and creator Katsuhiro Otomo has become a legendary storyteller in animation as well as manga. *Akira* is a science-fiction tour-de-force, a breathtaking vision of innocence, infamy, and insanity.

"...as the New Cinema demolished the old Hollywood style of filmmaking...Katsuhiro Otomo...shattered the conventions existing in manga."

— *Asahi* newspaper



AKIRA

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